



## Blessed Sacramento School Summer Reading List for Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders 2017

We encourage all middle school students to read throughout the summer to enhance reading enjoyment while increasing reading proficiency. To support these goals, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to read **two** required books.

- 1) 8<sup>th</sup> graders will read and complete an assignment for *The Shack* by William Young
- 2) 8<sup>th</sup> graders will read *The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair* by Russell Martin and Lydia Nibley

The assignments will be due on the first day of school, Wednesday, August 23, 2017. Teachers will follow up with additional meaningful discussions and assignments in class once school resumes, and this may include a quiz on the material.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Book:**

*The Shack* by William Young

Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Book:**

*The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair* by Russell Martin and Lydia Nibley

At the time of Ludwig van Beethoven's death, it was a common practice to take a lock of hair from the deceased as a remembrance, a sacred remnant of the person who meant so much when alive. One such lock of Beethoven's hair survived through the years and eventually became the joint property of two men who, in 1995, opened the sealed frame that encased the hair and began the process of unlocking the mysteries of Beethoven's life, death, and possibly his genius.

**Assignment for *The Shack* by William Young**

You are to build your own 3-D shack. You are to put inside put something that represents a time when you got "stuck" in your faith.

In addition, you will write a three paragraph about your "stuck" faith experience

The assignment for *The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair* by Russell Martin and Lydia Nibley will be a STREAM activity that will be completed during the first week of school.