

Dear Rising 6th Grade Parents and Students,

Fostering a love of reading has many rewards! As the rising 6th grade class prepares to assemble in the fall at St. Martin de Porres Catholic School, we will join in the common purpose of being connected through books in the magnificent world of reading.

As rising 6th graders, there will be two parts to summer reading:

- The first part of the middle school summer reading assignment will require students to read three books, with one coming from the required list below. The other two books can be a personal choice book that has not been read before, but must be a minimum of 150 pages long (no graphic novels!). Students need to track their reading on the attached reading log. The reading log will be due the first day of school. Reading logs will be collected and used toward a grade on a final reading assignment in class. Parents must sign off on the log.
- The second part to summer reading will require students to complete an in-class project during the first week of school focusing on: characters, setting, conflict, plot, and theme (lesson learned from the story). Students will create their project for the novel they choose from the required reading list below. It would be helpful for students to either have a copy of the book or have notes on the five elements listed above to complete this project.

I hope this requirement will encourage your student to continue reading over the summer. I look forward to seeing you and your students in the fall!

Happy Reading!
Mrs. Nolting

SMdP REQUIRED READING LIST 2020

Choose ONE book to read from this list:

Allcott, Louisa May. **LITTLE WOMEN**. Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?

Baum, Frank L. **THE WIZARD OF OZ**. The adventures of a young farm girl named Dorothy in the magical Land of Oz, after she and her pet dog Toto are swept away from their Kansas home by a tornado.

George, Jean Craighead. **MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN**. Sam Gibley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and independence during his year in the wilderness, a year that changes his life forever.

Gipson, Fred. **OLD YELLER**. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene. Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

Lewis, C.S. **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**. Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

Lewis, C.S. **THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW**. On a daring quest to save a life, two friends are hurled into another world, where an evil sorceress seeks to enslave them. But then the lion Aslan's song weaves itself into the fabric of a new land, a land that will be known as Narnia. And in Narnia, all things are possible.

Rawls, Wilson. **WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS**. Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters—now friends—and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.

Spyri, Johanna. **HEIDI**. Eight-year-old Heidi is orphaned and her selfish maternal Aunt Dete takes her to the mountains to live with Adolph Kramer, her grumpy, old, outcast, survivalist paternal grandfather. Heidi brings her grandfather back into mountain society through her angelic ways, sheer love, and adorable personality.

Wiggin, Kate Douglas. **REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM**. Eleven-year-old Rebecca Randall is quite a handful—and now she's leaving her beloved Sunnybrook Farm to live with her well-to-do elderly aunts and get an education. But they were expecting Rebecca's quiet, hard-working older sister instead. Can the bright-eyed and talkative girl win them over...especially her strict, rule-bound Aunt Miranda? Just as Rebecca's "grand spirit" charms everyone in the story, it will captivate readers, too.

Wyss, Johann. **THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON**. Following a wild and raging storm, the Swiss family Robinson are stranded at sea. But the thundering waves have swept them off to a tropical island, where a new life awaits them. Their ship is laden with supplies and the island is packed with treasures, so they soon adapt and discover new dangers and delights every day.

Name: _____

SMdP ELA Summer Reading Assignment

Please fill out your reading log below and bring this on the first day of school in August. One book **MUST** be from the required reading list. The other two books can be personal choice books, but must have a minimum of 150 pages (no graphic novels!). Be prepared to talk about your required reading book in class on the first day of school, and to create a project relating to the book the first week of school. This will be your first grade for the school year.

Date	Title of Book	Author	# of pages	Your Reaction
1.				
2.				
3.				

Parent Signature:
