

Dear Middle School ELA Parents and Students,

Fostering a love of reading has many rewards! As the rising 7th– 8th grade classes prepare 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 7th– 8th 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 200 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. 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:

Alcott, Louisa May. **LITTLE MEN**. 1871. Jo March and her husband Professor Bhaer's school for boys is a place of light, warmth, comfort, and delights, where self-knowledge and self-control are acquired along with book learning.

Armstrong, William Howard. **SOUNDER**. Illustrated by James Barkley. 1969. Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read with the help of the devoted dog Sounder.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. **THE SECRET GARDEN**. 1909. A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Cooper, James Fenimore. **THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS**. 1826. Set in pre-Revolutionary times, this story tells of the Indians caught up in the struggle of Europeans for the continent of North America.

Defoe, Daniel. ROBINSON CRUSOE. 1719. An Englishman's great resourcefulness enables him to survive for almost thirty years on the desert island where he is shipwrecked.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOMES. 1892 A collection of Sherlock Homes mystery adventures includes "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Red-Headed League," and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band."

Gilbreth, Frank B. and Ernestine. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN. 1948. The twelve Gilbreth children are unforgettable as they grow up under the direction of their famous efficiency-expert parents.

Grahame, Kenneth. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. 1908. This classic animal story features friends Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.

Hunt, Irene. ACROSS FIVE APRILS. 1964. Newbery Honor Book. With the men in family in both the Union and Confederate Armies, ten-year-old Jethro runs the farm and comes to have serious doubts about the war between brothers.

L'Engle, Madeleine. A WRINKLE IN TIME. 1962 Newbery Medal. Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers in a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

Lewis, C.S. THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE. 1950. Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

London, Jack. WHITE FANG. 1906. A wolf-dog experiences the wilds, the campfire, and finally the habitation of the white man that molds him into a loyal ally.

Montgomery, L.M. ANNE OF GREEN GABLES. 1908. An adventurous young orphan goes to live on a farm with an elderly brother and sister.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. THE YEARLING. Illustrated by N.C. Wyeth. 1938. Pulitzer Prize. A young Florida farm boy raised a wild deer as a pet, but trouble looms as the animal grows and begins to destroy the family's crops.

Richeter, Conrad. THE LIGHT IN THE FOREST. 1953. John Butler, young son of an affluent family, is captured by the Delawares and becomes an Indian in every sense, even to learning how to hate the white men.

Speare, Elizabeth George. THE BRONZE BOW. 1961 Newbery Medal. A boy learns acceptance and love as his hate for the Romans, who killed his parents, dissolves.

Spyri, Johanna. HEIDI. 1880. The goats and the Grandfather are Heidi's only happiness when she is sent from her mountain home to a big city where she can go to school and be a companion for Clara, a wealthy, gentle girl who cannot walk.

Steinbeck, John. THE RED PONY. 1933. Four episodes in the life of Jody, a boy on a California ranch.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. TREASURE ISLAND. 1882. While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.

Ten Boom, Corrie. THE HIDING PLACE. 1971. Corrie ten Boom's account of her amazing family's experiences during the German occupation of Holland reveals her indomitable Christian faith.

Tolkien, J.R.R. THE LORD OF THE RINGS. 1954. In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths, and Sauron, the Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, it remained lost to him. After many ages it fell by chance into the hands of the hobbit Bilbo Baggins. From Sauron's fastness in the Dark Tower of Mordor, his power spread far and wide. Sauron gathered all the Great Rings, but always he searched for the One Ring that would complete his dominion. When Bilbo reached his eleventy-first birthday he disappeared, bequeathing to his young cousin Frodo the Ruling Ring and a perilous quest: to journey across Middle-earth, deep into the shadow of the Dark Lord, and destroy the Ring by casting it into the Cracks of Doom.

Twain, Mark. THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN. 1885. A poor white boy and a runaway slave find murder, family feuds, villains, and friendship while traveling on a raft on the Mississippi River.

Twain, Mark. THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER. 1882. A poverty-stricken child and Edward, Prince of Wales, exchange clothes during a chance encounter. Each boy must live the other's life until they are restored to their true identities.

Verne, Jules. JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH. 1864. Professor Hardwigg and his party attempt to reach the center of the earth by descending into the crater of a live volcano.

Wyss, Johann David. THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON. 1813. When a Swiss couple and their four sons are shipwrecked on an isolated island, they adapt to their "New Switzerland," using imaginative methods of farming and animal taming.

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 200 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:
