

SUMMER 2009
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST

Each rising 6th, 7th and 8th grader must read two (2) books over the summer. Everyone shall read the first required book. The second book should be chosen from the grade level list. This list has books that will tie into the history or geography curriculum for the upcoming year.

NOTE TO PARENTS

Students are expected to select books that they have not previously read. Parents and students should work together to choose books that seem most appropriate for the student's interests, reading level and spiritual maturity. In particular, parents must be aware that much contemporary reading and some classics contain profanity. We have marked with an asterisk (*) books that contain some profanity or other PG-rated material. Please choose your reading according to the convictions the Lord has given you.

REQUIRED READING FOR EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE LEVEL

Required for rising 6th graders:

Sachar, Lewis. *Holes*. (Newberry Award Book)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds a friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Required for rising 7th graders:

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*. (Or, if you have read this, please choose one of the other books in the The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Having read all those, read *Silmarillion*. This series carries the reader into Tolkien's world of high fantasy and the battle between good and evil.

Required for rising 8th graders:

Collins, David. *George Washington Carver: Man's Slave Becomes God's Scientist*.

Born to slave parents, George fought poverty and battled prejudice. Yet he emerged as one of history's most remarkable men! Carver was heard often to say, "He has shown me the way, just as He will show everyone who turns to Him." George Washington Carver was greatly used by God to discover countless numbers of scientific wonders and to lead a life which has inspired Christians everywhere. (The Sower Series)

Rising 6th Graders

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED BOOKS: CHOOSE ONE

Alder, Elizabeth. *The King's Shadow*.

Ewyn is a storyteller in the Dark Ages. He is cruelly treated by ruffians and must learn a new way to survive in these brutal times in England.

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen*.

Bearing six unusual gifts, young Prince Jen embarks on a perilous quest and emerges triumphantly into manhood.

Avi. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

Barrett, Tracy. *Anna of Byzantium*.

In the eleventh century, the teenage princess Anna Comnena fights for her birthright, the throne of the Byzantine Empire, which she fears will be taken from her by her younger brother.

Gray, Elizabeth Janet. *Adam of the Road*. (Newberry Award)

Nick, a minstrel's son, braves many dangers of man and nature as he travels Southern England in search of his lost father and lost dog.

Jacques, Brian. *Redwall* series (Any book in this series)

The fantasy adventures of a heroic mouse and his friends give these books a great excitement and high interest.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. (Newberry Medal)

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in Medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potter's village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

Speare, Elizabeth. *The Bronze Bow*.

Daniel becomes part of a violent gang of zealots seeking to force the Romans out of Israel in whatever way possible. A humble carpenter, teaching love for enemies, challenges Daniel with a better and more difficult way.

*Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*.

After his parents die, Jeffery Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. This story contains several clever historical allusions to Homer's *Odyssey*.

Thompson, Andy. *Morning Star of the Reformation*.

In the midst of The Black Death, university controversies and violent riots, John Wycliffe and his friends catch a vision that will revolutionize their society.

Winterfield, Henry. *Detectives in Togas*.

In an effort to save a boy wrongfully accused, a group of young friends living in ancient Rome search for the culprit who scrawled graffiti on the temple wall.

Rising 7th Graders **Any good missionary biography or autobiography is acceptable

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED BOOKS: CHOOSE ONE

Alcorn, Randy. *Safely Home*.

Of two college friends who reconnect after twenty years, one is living life apart from God in comfortable corporate America while the other is living for Christ under intense persecution in China. This page-turner reminds readers to live in light of eternity.

*Burnett, Frances Hedgson. *The Secret Garden*.

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*. (Newberry Medal)

While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Hautizg, Esther. *The Endless Steppe*.

Esther related her own story of her exile in Siberia during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

Jiang, Ji-Li. *Red Scarf Girl*.

A memoir of a girl who grew up during the cultural revolution in China. She faced a choice: should she condemn her father and break with her family or should she sacrifice her future in the Community Party?

*Kipling, Rudyard. *The Jungle Book*.

The story of a young boy raised in the jungle and how he copes with a strange world that was once his.

London, Jack. *Jack London's Stories of the North*.

Collection of stories about the rugged outdoor life in Alaska and the Yukon in the 19th century.

London, Jack. *White Fang*.

A dog is forcibly taken to Alaska where he eventually becomes leader of a wolf pack.

McSwigan, Marie. *Snow Treasure*.

Children smuggle gold out of occupied Norway to keep it out of Nazi hands.

Olsen, Bruce L. *Bruchko*.**

A riveting story of the adversity and opposition a young man overcame as he took the gospel of Jesus Christ to civilizations that were previously unreachable within the South American continent.

Richardson, Don. *Eternity in Their Hearts*.**

In 1795, deep in Burma's jungle, tribesmen rush to greet a light-skinned stranger. Is he bringing the book their forefather lost centuries ago—the book that tells about Y'Wa, the Supreme God? With this and 25 more case studies, the author shows how God has prepared the way for the gospel by setting "eternity in the hearts of men."**

Richardson, Don. *Peace Child*.**

A gripping account of jungle treachery, cannibalistic cruelty and God's faithfulness.**

*Saraillier, Ian. *Escape from Warsaw*.

On a cold, dark night in Warsaw, Germany in 1942, the Balicki children watch Nazi storm troopers arrest their mother. Now they are alone and must survive.

*Twain, Mark. *Life on the Mississippi*.

The American story of a boy's experiences and observations as he travels down the Mississippi.

Taylor, Hudson. *Hudson Taylor* (Men of Faith Series). Bethany House.

This book recounts the thrilling story of Hudson Taylor's love for God and his unflinching commitment to present the Gospel of Christ to the Chinese.**

White, Kathleen. *Amy Carmichael*. (Women of Faith Series). Bethany House

The story of a staunch Irish girl determined to give up family, fashion and comfort to ease the pain and oppression of children in India.**

Wyss, Johann. *Swiss Family Robinson*.

Classic story of the fortunes of a shipwrecked family as they adapt to life on an island with abundant animal and plant life.

Rising 8th Graders

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED BOOKS: CHOOSE ONE

Armstrong, William. *Sounder*.

A poor black sharecropper, his family and their coon dog, Sounder, are the main characters in this story full of heartbreak and hope.

Avi. *Captain Grey*.

Following the American Revolution, an eleven-year-old boy becomes the captive of a ruthless man who has set up his own "nation," supported by piracy, on a remote part of the New Jersey coast. (easy, easy read)

Beatty, Patricia. *Turn Homeward, Hannalee*.

Hannalee and her brother, Jem, try to find their way home after the Yankees take them captive.

Blos, Joan W. *A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal 1830-32*

The journal of a fourteen-year old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, recounts daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend. (easy read) (Newberry)

Brink, Carol Ryrie. *Caddie Woodlawn*. (Newberry)

A redheaded tomboy and her brothers have exciting encounters with friendly Indians on the Wisconsin frontier.

*Collier, James and Christopher. *My Brother Sam is Dead*.

The Revolutionary War is raging and Tim knows he'll have to make a choice. But how can he choose when it means fighting his father on one side or his brother on the other.

Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*.

Over the five years of the Civil War, a young man recounts its hardships and insights only the struggles of war can afford.

Lord, Walter. *A Night to Remember*.

Story of the Titanic.

Marshall, Peter, Jr. *The Light and the Glory for Children*.

The stories of the contributions and the Christian testimonies of America's founding fathers.

Murphy, Jim. *The Boy's War*.

Confederate and Union soldiers talk about the Civil War.

O'Dell, Scott. *Sarah Bishop*.

Left alone after the deaths of her father and brother who take opposite sides in the War for Independence, and fleeing from the British who seek to arrest her, Sarah Bishop struggles to shape a new life for herself in the wilderness.

Speare, Elizabeth George. *Calico Captive*.

In 1754, an Indian raid on her small New Hampshire town during the French and Indian War left Miriam Willard a prisoner of the Indians and forced her to take part in a harrowing march north. Knowing that a life of slavery awaits her, how can she go on?

Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. (Newberry)

Witchcraft has no part in this story of Kit Tyler, who has ended up on the bleak shores of Connecticut Colony and who misses her home in the Caribbean islands. When she befriends an old lady, Kit is faced with suspicion, fear and anger.