

## Incoming 7th Grade Summer Reading 2021-2022

“Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light.”

–Vera Nazarian

Reading is empowerment. In order to continue to empower and engage our students, our St. Mark community of upcoming seventh graders will read three novels this summer.

\*Students must read The Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings. This novel should be completed by the start of school in order for students to be prepared to discuss and critique the novel at the beginning of the school year. We will use this novel to begin our first unit of study. The assignment for this novel is attached.

\*In addition to reading The Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings, students must read ONE additional novel that is age appropriate for the start of the school year. The assignments for these two novels are attached. Feel free to use the link below if you are looking for inspiration.

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/7th-grade-summer-reading>

### Assignments:

Read the writing prompts below. Choose one writing prompt and create one 400-600 word journal entry for each novel. At the beginning of the school year, you will submit a total of two journal entries for a grade, one entry for each novel. Use evidence from the novel to support your ideas and insights. Explain your ideas clearly and develop your insights. Remember to check for editing before you submit your work. You may type or handwrite your responses. Your responses are due on the first day of school. Remember to give your responses a clear organizational structure: introduction, body, and conclusion. You may use first person point of view in responses where the question is asking for your personal insights. Use third person point of view in responses where the question is asking you to focus on the literature or literary ideas.

**If you have any questions, please email [cbarrett@stmark-school.org](mailto:cbarrett@stmark-school.org).**

### Personal and Textual Connections:

1. Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life? Who and how?
2. How are the characters, setting, and problems like those in other stories you have read?
3. Were you reminded of anything in your own life while reading this story? What and how?
4. What does this story make you think or wonder about?

### Setting:

5. In another time or place, how would the story change? Where else could the story take place?
6. How is the setting like another place you know?

### Characters:

7. Which character taught you the most? What did s/he teach you and how?
8. What choices did the character have? What choice did they make? Why?
9. How does the author/illustrator reveal the character? (Look at what the character does, thinks, or says and/or what others say about the character.)
10. Which characters change and which don't? How is character change important in the story?
11. How did characters feel about one another? Why?
12. What did you learn from one character in the story? How did you learn it?

Plot:

13. What lesson does this story teach about life? How does it teach it?
14. Do you think the story really could have happened? Why or why not?
15. What is the inciting force in this story? Why do you think this is the inciting force?
16. What is the climax of the story? Do you think that the climax was written well? Why or why not?
17. How is the story resolved? Do you feel this was the best way to resolve it? Why or why not?

Theme:

18. What is the story really about? How do you know?
19. What does the story mean to you? Why?

Point of View:

20. Who tells the story? Is this the best person to tell it? Why or why not?
21. How would the story be different if told through another character's eyes?

Author:

22. Did the author keep you interested? How or why?
23. What do you notice about the writing - the way the author wrote?

“Some books leave us free and some books make us free.”

–Ralph Waldo Emerson