

PRIDE Summer Reading ELA Assignments 2020

St. Mark PRIDE Grade 6 - 8 Families,

“Fostering a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children.”

The following Summer Reading Lists have been developed to encourage reading and to guide students with their book choices during the summer. Reading for pleasure helps to build reading skills and instills a love of reading that hopefully, will last a lifetime. I recommend that students read a variety of books from this reading list. Many different books, from challenging to easier choices, are listed. While specific book titles are suggested, students may choose any book by the authors listed if they find one of interest. I know this summer will be a little more challenging, but most of these books can be ordered on Amazon and some are even available as audio books.

As mentioned during our Zoom meetings, students may create a Daily Reading Log with their summer reading time calculated and added to their Log Sheet for additional extra credit. This Daily Reading Log should be signed but a parent.
Have a Wonderful Summer and Happy Reading!

Mrs. McDonald

Summer Reading Activity Grades 6 - 8

1. Develop a short “book talk” (explanation/summary) about the book that can be shared with the class. Include story elements such as; characters, settings, plot, etc.
2. The “book talk” should be written on Google Docs or Google Slides. You may also use **index cards**. You must have at least 7-8 well-developed sentences about the novel, without giving away any "spoilers." Please make sure you list the title and author of the book on the top of the Google Doc or on the first Google Slide.
3. Give your audience a taste of the story. Do not give away the ending. Bring the book and a copy of the “book talk” to school on the first day of class.
4. I will collect them, and we will spend time presenting these book talks at the beginning of the year. Be prepared to give your opinion on events within the novel.

BOOK CHOICES

Choose at least **ONE** of the following books to read as your **Summer Reading Book**. The books vary in grade level so choose a book that will maintain interest.

Elijah of Buxton. Scholastic, 2007. Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Award. Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to bring to justice the preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Avi. School of the Dead. Harper, 2016. In this spine-tingling story, a boy must solve the mystery of the ghost haunting him. (Any suspense book by the author Avi is acceptable)

Rubin, Sarah. The Impossible Clue. Scholastic, 2017. Math whiz Alice Jones has cracked many codes, but when a famous scientist disappears from a locked room, she must put her detective skills to the test.

Birdsall, Jeanne. The Penderwicks. Random House, 2005. While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Davies, Jacqueline. The Lemonade War (Series). Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, battle it out through their lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn \$100. Includes tips for running a lemonade stand.

Lord, Cynthia. Half a Chance. Scholastic, 2014. Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small community in New Hampshire. With her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.

National Geographic Kids Weird But True Series, National Geographic, 2017. Fun reference books chock-full of wacky facts and bold illustration and photographs.

Evans, Lady Hestia. Mythology: The Gods, Heroes, and Monsters of Ancient Greece. Candlewick Press, 2007. Introduces Greek mythology, exploring gods and goddesses, origins of mankind, monsters, beasts, and battles, featuring fold-outs, pop-ups, maps, "secret" messages, and other interactive features. Read other "-ology" books, such as Egyptology, Pirateology, Oceanology.

Nonfiction Selections

- **Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex** by Nathaniel Philbrick
- **Left for Dead** by Pete Nelson
- **Into Thin Air** by Jon Krakauer

- **Never Cry Wolf** by Farley Mowat

Sports

- **Travel Team and Heat** by Mike Lupica
- **Hoops** by Walter Dean Myers
- **Baseball Card Adventures** by Dan Gutman
- **Over the Wall** by John H. Ritter
- **Tangerine** by Edward Bloor
- **Coach Hyatt is a Riot** by Dan Gutman
- **Jabari Jumps** by Gala Cornwall

Realistic Fiction

- **Monster** by Walter Dean Myers
- **Secret Lives of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd
- **Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli
- **Skellig** by David Almond
- **Walk Two Moons** by Sharon Creech
- **When Zachary Beaver Came to Town** by Kimberly Willis Holt