

Incoming 8th Grade Summer 2021 Reading

Dear Parents,

In order to keep your student's mind sharp over the summer, we in the St. Mark Middle School require summer reading for all students.

The following is required for the summer of 2021:

Incoming 8th Grade:

ALL (Except WHATLEY Program Students – see WHATLEY Summer Reading/Math) Students must read **Between Shades of Gray**, by Ruta Sepetys. I would HIGHLY recommend that the students purchase this novel as we are going to start the school year using this novel (I have copies in my classroom if you need to borrow one. Send me an email I we will work out a pick up time).

After reading Between Shades of Gray, please print and complete the attached Summer Reading Choice Board. Please bring completed assignments to school on the first day of school.

In addition, all incoming 8th grade students must read **ONE additional novel** from the list of novels below. The student should **complete the attached Summer Reading Choice Board for the book that you choose. Please bring completed assignments to school on the first day of school.**

1. Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **THE BOY WHO DARED**. Awaiting his execution in jail, a German teacher recalls Hitler's rise to power and the courage he found to stand up to the Nazi regime. (F)
2. Choldenko, Gennifer. **AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS**. In 1935, Moose Flanagan move to Alcatraz Island where his father has found work in the prison housing such notorious criminals as Al Capone. Moose must balance the responsibilities of caring for his autistic sister while coping with the free spirited warden's daughter. (F)
3. Condie, Ally. **MATCHED**. Torn between loving her best friend, Xander who was chosen by Society as her "match," or defying the government and opening her heart to KY Markem, Cassia Reyes is forced to make the hardest decisions of her life - believe in the government's system or follow your heart. The first book in the **Matched Trilogy**. (F)
4. Connor, Leslie. **WAITING FOR NORMAL**. Wanting a "normal" life, Addie is forced to make it on her own when her mother neglects to live up to her responsibilities. (F)
5. Cooney, Caroline B. **CODE ORANGE**. While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100 year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. (F)
6. Ellis, Deborah. **THE BREADWINNER**. Parvana lives in Kabul,

- Afghanistan. When conditions grow desperate for her family, she poses as a boy so she can earn money to help them. (F)
7. Erskine, Kathryn. **MOCKINGBIRD**. Imagine having to go to the dictionary to understand emotions and always struggling to make friends. Caitlin's confusion and discomfort come from having Asperger's Syndrome and are even made worse when her brother is killed and her father is overwhelmed with grief. (F)
 8. Freedman, Russell. **ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS: THE STORY BEHIND AN AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP**. This book traces the powerful friendship and parallel lives of two men who shaped American history - one man an American president, the other leading black abolitionist. It is a carefully researched account of how their lives intersected at a critical moment in U.S. history. Though their meetings were few and brief, their exchange of ideas helped to end the Civil War, reunite the nation, and abolish slavery. (NF)
 9. Gleitzman, Morris. **ONCE**. Determined to return to his hometown and find his Jewish parents, Felix runs away from the safety of a Catholic orphanage, only to be faced with the brutal violence and cruel truth of the Nazi regime. The first in the trilogy: **ONCE, THEN, NOW**. (F)
 10. Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. **ONE FOR THE MURPHYS**. When she enters the foster care system, Carly Connors never imagines that she will ever find a place to call home - that is until she meets the Murphys. Blindsided by their love, Carley finally feels like she has found a place to belong. When her mother comes to take her back, she is forced to make the biggest decision of her life. (F)
 11. Johnson, Angela. **BIRD**. **BIRD** is told from three points of view: a runaway, a young heart transplant recipient, and a boy who has just lost his brother. The threesome find one another as they search for love and connections. (F)
 12. Korman, Gordon. **UNGIFTED**. Donovan Curtis, legendary jokester and average eighth grade student, knows he has gone too far when his latest prank causes thousands of dollars worth of damage to the school gym. When an unexpected turn of events accidentally sends Donovan to the "gifted" school, he knows he's way in over his head. Told through various points of view, both Donovan and his new genius friends begin to realize that despite their differences, they still have things to learn from each other. (F)
 13. Larson, Hope. **WRINKLE IN TIME: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL**. This is the graphic novel version of the classic story of time travel, adventure, and growing up. *A Wrinkle in Time* introduces us to the wonderful and unforgettable characters of Meg and Charles Wallace Murry and their friend Calvin O'Keefe who along with the three Mrs. - Who, Whatsit, and Which, begin an adventure to fight off a dark force and save their father, along with the universe. (F)
 14. Lupica, Mike. **HEAT**. Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only 12 years old, and he has no parents to offer proof. (F)
 15. Mah, Adeline Yen. **CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER**. Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for

- Adeline Yen's memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother. (NF)
16. Mazer, Harry. **BOY AT WAR: A NOVEL OF PEARL HARBOR**. Fourteen-year-old Adam is caught in the midst of the attack on December 7, 1941. (F)
 17. Middaugh, Dallas. **THE CITY OF EMBER: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL**. This graphic novel reintroduces Ember, the doomed city of darkness that was built to ensure that humans would continue to exist on Earth. On Assignment Day, 12 year-olds leave school and receive their lifetime job assignments. Lina becomes the messenger, and her friend Doon ends up in the Pipeworks beneath the city. They unearth an evil plot from the government to steal away the precious resources from people who live in Ember. Using clues left behind by Lina's late grandmother, they travel beneath Ember's tunnels in a desperate attempt to find a way out. (F)
 18. Morpurgo, Michael. **PRIVATE PEACEFUL**. Two young brothers, Tommo and Charlie Peaceful, are faced with the reality of trench warfare and life as soldiers during WWI. As Tommo reflects back on his childhood, this touching and emotional story intertwines his past family struggles with his current soldier life. (F)
 19. Myers, Walter Dean and Ross Workman. **KICK**. Walter Dean Myers co-authors this novel with teenage author Ross Workman to tell two sides of the same story. Ross Workman writes from Kevin's point of view. Kevin is an accomplished soccer player, now struggling with problems with the law. Myers writes from the point of view of Sergeant Brown, who has taken special interest in Kevin, since he's the son of a police officer killed in the line of duty. This is a unique collection of authors. (F)
 20. Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **LIFE AS WE KNEW IT**. When a meteor hits the moon and knocks it off of its axis, life on Earth is altered forever. High-school student Miranda keeps a diary about how her family copes without electricity, food and gas shortages, and extreme weather changes. (F)
 21. Rappaport, Doreen. **BEYOND COURAGE: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JEWISH RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST**. Under the noses of the military, thousands of children are smuggled out of occupied France into Switzerland. In Belgium, three resistors ambush a train, allowing scores of Jews to flee from the cattle cars. In Poland, four brothers lead more than 1,200 ghetto refugees into the forest to build a guerilla force and self-sufficient village. And a twelve year-old entertains German officers with his violin moments before setting off a bomb. Through twenty-one meticulously researched accounts, the author illustrates the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews with the weapons of courage, ingenuity, the will to survive and the resolve to save others or to die trying. (NF)
 22. Sonnenblick Jordan. **AFTER EVER AFTER**. Jeffrey Alper, an eighth grade cancer survivor, has learned a lot about life, but there's a lot that's brand-new, such as how to fight for himself and for the people he loves. This is a hopeful and sometimes funny story about what happens when you stop surviving and start living again. (F)
 23. Taylor, Peter Lane and Christos Nicola. **THE SECRET OF PRIEST'S GROTTTO: A HOLOCAUST SURVIVAL STORY**. Two explorers survey caves

and relate the true story of how several Jewish families survived the Holocaust of WWII by hiding in the caves of Western Ukraine for over three years. (NF)

24. Thompson, Ruth. **TEREZIN: VOICES FROM THE HOLOCAUST**. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany turned the small town of Terezin, Czechoslovakia, into a ghetto, and then into a transit camp for thousands of Jewish people. It was a “show” camp, where the inmates were forced to use their artistic talents to fool the world about the truth of gas chambers and horrific living conditions for imprisoned Jews. Secretly, these artists also created images of what they observed, from the overcrowding to the deplorable, unsanitary living conditions to the plight of the elderly and infirmed. Here, in a meticulously researched book, is their story told through the inmates’ secret diary entries, artwork, and excerpts from memoirs. (NF)
25. Walker, Sally M. **WRITTEN IN BONE: BURIED LIVES OF JAMESTOWN AND COLONIAL MARYLAND**. This book is the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s. It uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship’s captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others. Nearly every page has at least one illustration, a color photo or helpful diagram, a map, or a period document. (NF)
26. Williams-Garcia, Rita. **ONE CRAZY SUMMER**. It is 1968, and Delphine and her two sisters have been put on a plane from Brooklyn to California to spend a month with their mother, a poet who abandoned the family years ago. During this crazy summer, the girls not only learn about their mother and the politics of this time period, but they each grow individually and come to better understand each other. (F)
27. Alexander, Kwame. **BOOKED**. Alexander pens a novel in verse, capturing the excitement of soccer and the pain of a young boy’s family falling apart. 12-year-old Nick has tough problems at home, at school and with the girl of his dreams. With help from friends and a ‘cool’ librarian, though, Nick learns – as readers will in this poetic tale – how to thrive and score. (F)
28. Anderson, John David. **MS. BIXBY’S LAST DAY**. Three middle school students – Topher, Brand and Steve – are very fond of their favorite teacher, Ms. Bixby – and when she announces she is leaving – they decide to give Ms. Bixby the ‘last day she deserves.’ Told in their three voices, in alternating chapters, this is an affective, authentic read – both heartfelt and hilarious – sure to appeal to both kids and adults alike. (F)
29. Rice, Luanne. **THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SISTERS**. 16-year-old Rue McCabe has the ‘perfect life’ – gorgeous, popular, brilliant, – until one day, on a wintry, icy afternoon, – while driving her car – she answers a text from her 14-year-old sister, Mathilda, – and accidentally flips. Next thing Roo knows, she’s paralyzed. (F)
30. Snow, Carol. **THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH**. High school teens, Daisy and Henry, are best friends. Daisy thinks she knows Henry really well until Daisy discovers that Henry and his family have disappeared and Henry has left a note, “Save ME!” To her surprise, Daisy learns that her parents are ‘preppers,’ people who believe they must prepare for the earth’s end.

She figures they must be hiding out in the California hills, and she must find them before she loses Henry, forever! (F)

Please direct any questions via email to Mrs. Ferro (tferro@stmark-school.org).

Summer Reading Choice Board

Directions: Choose **ONE** bullet point from **EACH** column. You must choose a task from E, L, and A. Please **do not** use poster board for this assignment. Printer-size paper should suffice for each task. See next page for choices!

Paragraph = five well-developed sentences.

E nglish	L anguage	A rts
Choose a Plot Task	Choose a Setting Task	Choose a Character Task

- ❖ Write 2 paragraphs explaining the major conflict in the book. What is the problem and how is it resolved or not resolved?
 - ❖ Write a 3-4 paragraph letter to the author arguing for a different ending
- ❖ Create a comic strip including the major characters, the conflict, and the climax. Include a 3-5 sentence explanation of the comic.
- ❖ Identify a major theme in the book. In 2 paragraphs, explain the theme's message, using at least one direct example from the text.

- ❖ Move the story to a different time period (the past or future). Rewrite one paragraph from the book in this new time period. In another paragraph, explain how this change might affect the story.
 - ❖ Draw and label a place where an important event occurs in the book with a 3-5 sentence summary of the event.
- ❖ Create a Venn diagram of the setting of the book and your own neighborhood. Include five qualities of each neighborhood in bullet point form. In 3-5 sentences, answer the question: Are your communities more similar or different?

- ❖ Imagine you find a diary belonging to one of the main characters. In 2-3 paragraphs, create this diary entry from the perspective of the character.
- ❖ Write an "About Me" section that the protagonist might put on their Facebook page. This should be one paragraph.
- ❖ Draw the protagonist with three objects that are important to them. Use at least 1-2 sentences to explain the significance of each object.