

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

REQUIRED TITLES

Fifth and Sixth grade are required to read Standing in the Light (Dear America Series) by Mary Osborne Pope.

Seventh and Eighth grade are required to read A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park.

Eighth grade is required to read When My Name Was Keoko by Linda Sue Park.

All students are required to read two additional books of their choice. If you need suggestions, please refer to the summer reading list on our website, for recommended titles. It can be found under Quick Links, MS Summer Reading.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT

In September, **ALL** students will be required to write an **in-class essay** based on the required reading. In order to prepare for the in-class essay, where notes will be allowed, it is strongly recommended that you apply the following active reading strategies:

- Take chapter notes using post-its at the end of the chapter to summarize main thoughts.
- Highlight key concepts and main character traits as you read each chapter
- Write in margins any important ideas and questions you may have as you're reading
- Look up any unknown words and create a vocabulary list that you can share with your class in September
- As you read remember to note important themes and major plot events

Using the strategies listed above, please prepare a detailed outline about one of the themes in your summer reading book. The outline is to be handed in to your language arts teacher in September. By applying these strategies, you will be well prepared for your in-class essay.

Happy Reading!

The following list is comprised of suggested titles from Holy Child Middle School students. Therefore, the grade above the titles represents the grade of the reader who suggested the book. Anything with an * may contain mature content.

5th Grade

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo India Opal Buloni has just moved to Naomi, Florida where her father is the local preacher. When she encounters a stray dog and makes him her own, it is the pathway to finding friends and forgiveness for the Mom who left her.

Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis Seven-part fantasy series in which a group of children walk into a magical realm called Narnia and find themselves in the midst of an ongoing battle between good and evil led by the Christ-like lion king Aslan.

Death on the Nile by Agatha Christie A murder on a cruise ship on the Nile baffles everyone except ace detective Hercule Poirot.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Holes by Louis Sachar 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 hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

The Last of the Really Great Wangdoodles by Julie Edwards

Matilda by Roald Dahl Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

Mouse Trap by Agatha Christie

Old Yeller

Peter and the Star Catchers by Ridley Pearson and Dave Barry

Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man by Wendelin Van Draanen When Sammy starts to investigate what really happened Halloween night, she's amazed at how

many people have something to hide. Of course, Sammy's got a few secrets herself. And more than a few tricks up her sleeve.

The Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

Small Steps by Louis Sachar Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo

Twenty-One Balloons by William Dubois

Where the Red Fern Grows

Witches by Roald Dahl

SIXTH GRADE SUGGESTIONS

A Lady Raised High: a novel of Anne Boleyn by Laurien Gardner The second in a series featuring the women of Tudor England, this novel tells the story of the woman who entranced the most powerful man of his time--King Henry VIII--and entered into a marriage that would change England forever.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

Anne Frank and Me by Cherie Bennett After suffering a concussion while on a class trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole finds herself living the life of a Jewish teenager in Paris during the Nazi occupation.

The BFG by Raul Dahl The Big Friendly Giant kidnaps Sophie from her bed in the orphanage and takes her back to Giantland with him lest she tell everyone that she has seen a giant. They conspire to put an end to the loathsome ways of the other Giants.

Blubber by Judy Blume Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it's like when she, too, becomes a target.

Crow Girl by Bodil Bredsdorff After the death of her grandmother, an orphaned young girl leaves her house by the cove and begins a journey which leads her to people and experiences that exemplify the wisdom her grandmother had shared with her.

****Curiosity Killed the Cat Sitter*** by Blaize Clement Dixie Hemingway, a former deputy with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department in Florida, has taken up what she believed would be a much less stressful career as a pet-sitter on posh Siesta Key, but her police instincts kick in when she becomes the prime suspect in the murders of a wealthy client and the woman's lover.

Elizabeth I : Red Rose of the House of Tudor : England, 1544 by Kathryn Lasky In a series of diary entries, Princess Elizabeth, the eleven-year-old daughter of King Henry VIII, celebrates holidays and birthdays, relives her mother's execution, revels in her studies, and agonizes over her father's health.

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Magic by the Lake by Edward Eager On a vacation, four children find themselves with an entire lake full of magic, which they must tame and learn how to handle in order to find the treasure that waits for them.

The Man Who was Poe by Avi In Providence, R.I., in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.

Mary, Bloody, Mary by Carolyn Meyer Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid-sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter of King Henry VIII.

Midnight Rider by Joan Hiatt Harlow In Boston in 1775, orphaned fourteen-year-old Hannah is indentured to the family of a British general and begins attending secret meetings disguised as a boy, then passing messages and warnings to the revolutionaries using her beloved horse Promise.

Nancy Drew Books by Caroline Keene

Once Upon a Marigold by Jean Ferris A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

Patience, Princess Catherine by Carolyn Meyer In 1501 fifteen-year-old Catharine of Aragon arrives in England to marry Arthur, the eldest son of King Henry VII, but soon finds her expectations of a happy settled life radically changed when Arthur unexpectedly dies and her future becomes the subject of a bitter dispute between the kingdoms of England and Spain.

Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen At the end of 18th century England, spirited Elizabeth Bennet copes with the suit of the snobbish Mr. Darcy while trying to sort out the romantic entanglements of two of her sisters, sweet and beautiful Jane and scatterbrained Lydia.

Rules by Cynthia Lord Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.

Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1996 tourist site

under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children.

Scarlett by Cathy Cassidy After being expelled from yet another school in London, twelve-year-old Scarlett is sent by her exasperated mother to live with her father, stepmother, and stepsister in Ireland, where, with the help of a mysterious boy, she eventually overcomes her anger and resentment and feels part of a family again.

Shug by Jenny Han A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South.

The Smugglers Treasure by Robert Elmer In Berlin in 1989, the Cold War seems to be coming to an end but thirteen-year-old Liesl still feels trapped behind a wall as she tries to uncover a secret about her American grandfather, aided by a boy whose father is in the United States Air Force.

So B. It by Sara Weeks After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

The Spanish Bride: a novel of Catherine of Aragon
by Laurien Gardner

Sparks Fly Upward by Carol Matos In 1910, when a family of Russian Jews moves from Saskatchewan to Winnipeg, Canada, twelve-year-old Rebecca must live with Christians temporarily and struggles with anti-Semitism, confusion about God, and changing relationships with family and friends.

The Tail of Emily Windsnap by Liz Kessler This story about a girl who learns she is half mermaid lures readers into a glorious undersea world--an enchanting fantasy about family secrets, loyal friendship, and the power of love.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE SUGGESTIONS

A Great and Terrible Beauty by Libba Bray A Victorian boarding school story, a Gothic mansion mystery, a gossipy romp about a clique of girlfriends, and a dark other-worldly fantasy--jumble them all together and you have this complicated and unusual first novel. Gemma, 16, has had an unconventional upbringing in India, until the day she foresees her mother's death in a black, swirling vision that turns out to be true. Sent back to England, she is enrolled at Spence, a

girls' academy with a mysterious burned-out East Wing. There Gemma is snubbed by powerful Felicity, beautiful Pippa, and even her own dumpy roommate Ann, until she blackmails herself and Ann into the treacherous clique. Gemma is distressed to find that she has been followed from India by Kartik, a beautiful young man who warns her to fight off the visions. Nevertheless, they continue, and one night she is led by a child-spirit to find a diary that reveals the secrets of a mystical Order. The clique soon finds a way to accompany Gemma to the other-world realms of her visions "for a bit of fun" and to taste the power they will never have as Victorian wives, but they discover that the delights of the realms are overwhelmed by a menace they cannot control. Gemma is left with the knowledge that her role as the link between worlds leaves her with a mission to seek out the "others" and rebuild the Order. *A Great and Terrible Beauty* is an impressive first book in what should prove to be a fascinating trilogy. (Ages 12 up) –*Patty Campbell*.

A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Mass Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

A Tree Grows In Brooklyn by Betty Smith The American classic about a young girl's coming of age at the turn of the century.

Among the Hidden by Margret Peterson Haddix Government regulations limit families to two children each, so Luke, an illegal third-born, must live his life in secret, hidden in his family's farmhouse. Then he joins Jen, another "shadow child," for a chance to come out into the light.

Are You There God it's Me Margaret by Judy Blume Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God.

Art Geeks, and Prom Queens by Alyson Noel Seventeen-year-old Alex seriously messes up during her senior year at an Orange County, California high school, skipping classes and staying out all night at Hollywood night clubs with older guys, in an effort to distract herself from some unpleasant realities.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer Who is Artemis Fowl? A genius. A criminal mastermind. A millionaire. And he is only twelve years old. Yet as crafty as he is, Artemis may have met his match in Captain Holly Short, an elf from the LEPrecon Special Forces, when he plots to steal the richest treasure the world has ever known - the timeless treasure of the fairies!

Bloomability by Sharon Creech When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers an expanding world and her place in it.

Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society by Adelina Yen Mah During the Japanese occupation of parts of China, twelve-year-old Ye Xian is thrown out of her father's and stepmother's home, joins a martial arts group, and tries to help her aunt and the Americans in their struggle against the Japanese invaders.

Define Normal by Julie Anne Peters When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia never dreams that this girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will end up helping her deal with the serious problems she faces at home and become a good friend.

Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

****Farewell to Manzanar: a true story of Japanese American experience during and after the World War II internment*** by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

Finishing Becca by Ann Rinaldi In 1778, 14-year-old Becca Synge goes to work as the personal maid for spoiled society beauty Peggy Shippen. The British are occupying Philadelphia, and the self-absorbed Peggy is seen most often on the arm of dashing Captain Andre. By the time the British decamp, Peggy's father is on the brink of ruin. It's then Peggy meets the notorious General Benedict Arnold, and the rest is history. According to Becca, who narrates the story, it was Peggy Shippen Arnold who was responsible for her husband's betrayal of the American Revolutionary cause.

Frogs and French Kisses by Mlynowski, Sarah Rachel Weinsten and her spellbound family from *Bras & Broomsticks* return in this hilarious, fast-paced, and bewitchingly clever novel.

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Homesick by Jean Fritz The author's fictionalized version, though all the events are true, of her childhood in China in the 1920's.

Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Miracle on 49th Street by Michael Lupica The last thing basketball superstar Josh Cameron thinks he wants or needs is a 12-year-old daughter he never knew about. Following her mother's death, Molly Parker tracks down and confronts Josh, her father, in this feel-good novel.

****My Sister's Keeper*** by Jodi Picoult Written with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity, this novel is about a teen who was conceived as a bone marrow match for her sister Kate, and what happens when she begins to question who she really is.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry Set in Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1943, this 1990 Newbery winner tells of a 10-year-old girl who undertakes a dangerous mission to save her best friend. Ages 10-14.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

****Prom*** by Laurie Halse Anderson Eighteen-year-old Ash wants nothing to do with senior prom, but when disaster strikes and her desperate friend, Nat, needs her help to get it back on track, Ash's involvement transforms her life.

The Ravenmaster's Secret: Escape From The Tower Of London by Elvira Woodruff An absorbing historical adventure with a unique and colorful setting.

Eleven-year-old Forrest lives at the Tower of London, where his father is Ravenmaster, the yeoman warder whose job is to guard prisoners and care for the famous ravens that live within the walls. Though often lonely, Forrest makes three friends: a raven, a young rat catcher, and, more dangerously, a Scottish girl imprisoned in the Bloody Tower. Soon the children become involved in an intrigue that is both dangerous and treasonous. Woodruff offers vivid sensory images of eighteenth-century London in a story that brings together children from three classes of society. *Carolyn Phelan*

Rebel Angel by Libba Bray In this sequel to the Victorian fantasy [*A Great and Terrible Beauty*](#), Gemma continues to pursue her role as the one destined to bind the magic of the Realms and restore it to the Order--a mysterious group who have been overthrown by a rebellion. Gemma, Felicity and Ann, use magical power to transport themselves on visits from their corseted world to the visionary country of the Realms, with its strange beauty and menace. There they search for the lost Temple, the key to Gemma's mission, and comfort Pippa, their friend who has been left behind in the Realms. After these visits they bring back magical power for a short time to use in their own world. Meanwhile, Gemma is torn between her attraction to the exotic Kartik, the messenger from the opposing forces of the Rakshana, and the handsome but clueless Simon, a young man of good family who is courting her. The complicated plot thickens when Gemma discovers a woman in Bedlam madhouse who knows where to find the Temple; Ann shows signs of being enamored of Gemma's loutish brother Tom, and their father's addiction to laudanum lands him in an opium den. A large part of the enjoyment of this unusual fantasy comes from the Victorian milieu and its restrictive rules about the behavior of proper young ladies, as contrasted with the unimaginable possibilities of the Realms, where Gemma has power to confront gorgons and ghosts and the responsibility to save a world. (Ages 12 and up) --*Patty Campbell*

The Secret Language of Girls by Frances O'Roark Dowell Marilyn and Kate have been friends since nursery school, but when Marilyn becomes a middle school cheerleader and Kate begins to develop other interests, their relationship is put to the test.

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Kidd Monk Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August.

****Speak*** by Laurie Halse Anderson A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school

Sweet Sixteen by Katie Brian On the night of her sweet sixteen birthday party, self-centered snob Teagan Phillips receives a visit from a special person who tries to convince the teenager to change the way she lives her life.

* ***They Cage the Animals at Night: the true story of a child who learned how to survive*** by Jennings Michael Burch

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke After their parents die, Prosper and Bo are told their Aunt wants only one of them to live with her, therefore they run away from their Aunt's house to their mother's beloved Venice, Italy. They hope they will love the city as much as their mother did and that their Aunt won't bother to look for them. They meet up with other runaway children who help them survive.

13 Little Blue Envelopes by Maureen Johnson Inside little blue envelope 1 are \$1,000 and instructions to buy a plane ticket. In envelope 2 are directions to a specific London flat. The note in envelope 3 tells Ginny: Find a starving artist. Because of envelope 4, Ginny and her artist, a playwright/thief/bloke-about-town called Keith, go to Scotland together, with somewhat disastrous -- though utterly romantic -- results. Ginny isn't sure she'll see Keith again, and definitely doesn't know what to think about him. Could the answer be in the envelopes? Ginny doesn't know it, but adventures in Rome and Paris are in envelopes 6 and 8. The rules are that she has to open one at a time, in order, so perhaps it isn't surprising that she discovers things about her life and love one by one. Everything about Ginny will change this summer, and it's all because of the 13 Little Blue Envelopes. Distributed by Syndetic Solutions, Inc.

The Uglies by Scott Westerfield Tally is about to turn sixteen and can't wait for her operation -the one that everyone gets at sixteen that transforms them from an ugly to a pretty. But her friend Shay is not interested in becoming a pretty and decides to risk life on the outside of her world.

The Wright Three by Blue Balliett In the midst of a series of unexplained accidents and mysterious coincidences, sixth-graders Calder, Petra, and Tommy lead their classmates in an attempt to keep Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Robie House from being demolished.

LIBRARIAN'S SUGGESTIONS

5th and 6th GRADES

Birdsall, Jeanne

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy

Giff, Patricia Reilly

Pictures of Hollis Woods

Peck, Richard

A Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts

Riordan, Rick

The Lightning Thief

Tunnel, Michael O.

Wishing Moon Story of Alladin's lamp and a young beggar girl who comes finds the lamp. Fast-moving adventure story.

7TH and 8TH GRADES

Bauer, Joan

Hope Was Here. Hope has traveled around the United States with her aunt, who works her wonders as a great cook. Hope can't understand why her Mom prefers the jet-set life than life with Hope.

Thwunk. In this novel a teenage girl's wish for the most popular boy in her high school to fall in love with her is granted by Cupid. She has no idea how bad an idea this is. This is a funny, romantic story of teenage love.

Creech, Sharon

Bloomability.

Walk Two Moons

DeLint, Charles

Little (Grll) Lost. Fantasy about a tiny size girl who decides to run away from home because her parents are too cautious about staying hidden from full size humans. Adventure and fantasy story.

Flake, Sharon

The Skin I'm In. Seventh grader Maleeka Madison learns to cope with a new teacher, bullies in middle school and her friendship with a girl she chooses because she can protect her against the bullies.

Fleischman, Paul

Whirligig. Well written, quick read of a teenage boy who drives drunk and causes the death of a teenage girl. This story is about his repentance, remorse and admission of his suicidal feelings and finally forgiving himself.

McDonald, Joyce

Swallowing Stones. The best day of Michael Mackenzie's life becomes the worst when the bullet he exuberantly fires into the air during his 17th birthday party comes down a mile away and kills a man. He buries the rifle and tries, without much success, to get on with life. So does the victim's 15-year-old daughter, Jenna, who had

been present when the bullet struck. This is the story of how their lives intertwine and how Michael deals with the responsibility of his actions.

Sachar, Louis

Small Steps. Armpit, a character from his first novel, *Holes*, strives to improve his life after returning from Camp Green Lake. A funny story, with a touch of romance for the main character.

Schmidt, Gary

The Wednesday Wars