

St. Michael's Country Day School
Summer Reading 2010
Entering 5th Grade

Goals:

The goals for the Middle School summer reading program are to

- give background reading for the curriculum that will be introduced when school starts;
- provide students an opportunity to share a common discussion of literature;
- and offer students good choices for summer reading.

Expectations: Students need to read **3** books -- **1** required and **2 free choice**.

You will also need to complete a project for **each** book.

On a 5x8 card

-- On the plain side of the card, create your favorite scene in the novel using illustrations or a collage. Make sure that you use the whole side; try not to leave any white showing.

-- On the lined side, write a brief summary which includes -- plot, summary, characters, major conflict, and resolution.

If you have any questions regarding summer reading, please contact either of the 5th grade teachers directly.

Ms. Stieff -- cstieff@smcds.org

Mrs. Szabo -- sszabo@smcds.org

Select either *Blubber* or *Al Capone Does my Shirts*.

Blume, Judy. *Blubber*.

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.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does my Shirts*.

Moose, a 12-year-old boy, is responsible for his autistic sister while the family lives on Alcatraz Island, home of Alcatraz Prison.

And, then, **you must read two more books. Here are some other choices to select from --**

Appelt, Kathi. *The Underneath*.

A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there

because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath.

Bolden, Tonya. *Maritcha*.

Maritcha's parents own a boarding house in mid-nineteenth century lower Manhattan. Forced to leave during the New York City draft riots, her middle class black family flees to Providence, Rhode Island, where they are determined to rebuild their lives and become affluent once more. Maritcha is determined to continue her education, eventually becoming the first African-American to graduate from Providence High School.

Broach, Elise. *Shakespeare's Secret*.

Teased at her new school, Hero Netherfield makes friends with an elderly neighbor, who seems to know quite a bit about a mystery connected to the Netherfields' new house. According to local rumor, a former owner may have hidden a priceless diamond, linked to the true identity of Shakespeare, somewhere in the house. Is this all much to do about nothing, or as Hero hopes, is she just the person to discover the truth?

Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*.

When fourth-grader Leigh Botts asks Mr. Henshaw, his favorite author, to write to him personally, he gets more than he bargained for. Leigh not only gets plenty of tips on writing, but he also finds a wise and thoughtful friend to whom he can tell his troubles.

Clements, Andrew. *Frindle*.

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Creech, Sharon.

***Chasing Redbird*.** Zinnia Taylor lives in Bybanks, Kentucky, with too many brothers and sisters. When Zinny discovers a mysterious, overgrown trail that begins on her family's farm, she's determined to clear it, from start to finish. But what Zinny didn't realize is that the mysteries of the trail are intertwined with her own unanswered questions and family secrets,

***Walk Two Moons*.**

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle, travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents in hopes of finding her mother before her mother's birthday.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money*.

Steven makes friends with a blind, elderly neighbor who is teased by other children in the neighborhood. Little does Steven expect that his kindness will be rewarded by a quadrillion dollar bill that Mr. Chickee gives to him. Could it possibly be real? The U.S. Government seems to think so.

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda*

Matilda Wormwood started reading books at the age of four, but her crooked father and bingo-playing mother regard book reading as a waste of time -- and much prefer watching TV. In fact, they take no notice of their genius daughter at all! Only Miss Honey, Matilda's lovely and gentle teacher, recognizes her special gifts. Yet Miss Honey has problems of her own: Her aunt is the tyrannical Miss Trunchbull, an evil headmistress who bullies children and parents alike -- and has taken Miss Honey's house and money. Can Matilda use her extraordinary talents to seek revenge -- and make all of the wrong-doing grown-ups pay?

Farmer, Nancy. *The Warm Place.*

When Ruva, a young giraffe, is captured and sent to a zoo in San Francisco, she calls upon two rats, a street-smart chameleon, a runaway boy, and all the magical powers of the animal world to return to "the warm place" that is home.

Fox, Helen.

Eager or Eager's Nephew.

The Bell family robot, Grumps, is showing his age. His worn out timer causes little but annoying problems like making tomato soup for breakfast. A family friend gives them a new robot to try out. EGR3 is one of a kind and can actually think. Gavin takes to the perky little robot, but his sister Fleur would have preferred a BDC4 like the one her friend Marcia owns, despite sensing something very sinister about this line of robots from LifeCorps.

Frank, Anne. *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl.*

Twelve-year-old Anne records her thoughts and the events in her life as she and her Jewish family hide from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II.

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story.*

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

Ibbotson, Eve. *The Dragonfly Pool.*

Tally does not want to leave her father, a kindly physician, and her dear aunts for boarding school in the English countryside, but as the world prepares for World War II, it seems wise to send her out of London. A wonderfully progressive school is chosen and Tally is soon happily involved in creating a folk dancing performance for an international festival in Bergania. Once they arrive for the dance exhibition, Tally and her classmates become caught up in saving the crown prince of Bergania from the Nazis.

Konigsburg, E.L.

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.

The enchanting story of the unappreciated Claudia Kincaid, "boring straight-A Claudia" (oldest child and only girl and almost too old for half-fare tickets), who runs away with her little brother Jamie to live in the Metropolitan Museum.

The View from Saturday.

When Mrs. Olinski's team won the sixth-grade Academic Bowl contest at Epiphany Middle School, everyone was surprised. It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen?

Lord, Bette Bao. *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.*

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle -- baseball -- happens. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie Robinson is proving that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America. And for Shirley as well, on the ball field and off, America becomes the land of opportunity.

Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays.*

Amanda and Leo were born on the same day in the same hospital. Just like a page torn from a storybook, an ancient town resident encourages the parents to celebrate the children's birthdays together. The parents promise, never intending to comply, but somehow they end up celebrating birthday number one in the same place at the same time. And so the birthdays are celebrated together until a misunderstanding at birthday party number ten causes a rift. That's when things really become strange. As birthday party eleven approaches, Leo and Amanda find themselves trapped in a time loop.

McKay, Hillary.

Saffy's Angel; Indigo's Star; Permanent Rose; Caddy Ever After; Forever Rose.

All the children in this family are named for colors. The household is loveably zany and the two artist parents are always preoccupied. Somehow Saffy, short for Saffron, has always felt herself to be different from the others. With the help of her first friend she begins to uncover the mysteries of her past. In a second novel about this family, Indigo is preparing himself for a return to school after being out sick for a semester. He knows that the bullies who make a misery of his life will be waiting for him when he returns. "Permanent Rose" is the story of the youngest child who has a special gift for creating predicaments.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Shiloh.*

Eleven-year-old Marty Preston loves to spend time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Sometimes he takes his .22 rifle to see what he can shoot, like some cans lined up on a rail fence. Other times he goes up early in the morning just to sit and watch the fox and deer. But one summer Sunday, Marty comes across something different on the road just past the old Shiloh schoolhouses -- a young beagle -- and the trouble begins.

O'Dell. Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins.*

Karana, an Indian girl lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins after she was left behind by Indians. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building a shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs.

Park, Barbara. *Mick Harte was Here.*

How could someone like Mick die? He was the kid who freaked out his mom by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, the kid who did a wild dance in front of the whole school -- and the kid who, if only he had worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive today. But now Phoebe Harte's 12-year-old brother is gone, and Phoebe's world has turned upside down. With her trademark candor and compassion, beloved middle-grade writer Barbara Park tells how Phoebe copes with her painful loss in this story filled with sadness, humor -- and hope.

Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky.*

It is hard to imagine having a life so filled with hilarious goings on in a town the size of Hard Pan, California, with its population of 43 permanent residents, but ten-year-old Lucky has never known a boring day, and that is just the problem when she is faced with the possibility of having to leave.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes.*

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 boys' juvenile detention center in the Texas desert. As punishment, the boys here must each dig a hole every day, five feet deep and five feet across. Ultimately, Stanley "digs up the truth" -- and through his experience, finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret.*

Hugo, who has learned all about clockworks from his father and uncle, becomes obsessed with an automaton his father discovers in his work at a museum. The plot is itself an intricately plotted mechanism as the boy struggles to uncover the automaton's secrets.

Taylor, Theodore. *Ice Drift.*

While fishing on the ice, two Inuit brothers are set adrift in the Greenland Sea when an iceberg crashes into the shoreline taking the ice they are on with it as it moves southward. Fortunately their sled is packed with emergency provisions and they manage to release the sled dogs to swim to shore and alert the village to their plight. With the lead dog they use all of their skills and wits to survive.

Wiles, Deborah. *The Aurora County All-Stars.*

Laugh-out-loud funny, and at times poignant, this story of a small town baseball team is a winner. The main character, House Jackson, the twelve-year-old pitcher, is the team's captain and equal to all the challenges he must suddenly face.

Here are some of our favorite authors:

Sharon Creech	Gary Paulsen
Jerry Spinnelli	Roald Dahl
Katherine Patterson	Rick Riordan
Avi	Beverly Cleary

Richard Peck
Natalie Babbitt
Louis Sachar

Christopher Paul Curtis
Judy Blume

Please be aware of the books we will be reading in class throughout the 2010-2011 school year, please refrain from reading these novels on your own:

The Watsons go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Witches by Roald Dahl

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

The Misfits by James Howe

Eggs by Jerry Spinelli

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park