

**St. Michael's Country Day School**  
**Summer Reading 2010**  
**Entering 6th 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 entering 6th grade are required to read 3 books -- **1** for history and **2** for English (1 required memoir and 1 free-choice).

Students are required to complete one project. This project must be done on the memoir book choice.

**Memoir Project: Timeline**

- Create a timeline with a minimum of 10 events from the memoir.
- Events must be in chronological order.
- Events must have an illustration and a caption.
- Make it large enough to be seen from 10 feet away.
- Proofread your writing.
- Have fun and be creative.

If you have any questions regarding summer reading, contact Mrs. Holden directly at [tholden@smcnds.org](mailto:tholden@smcnds.org).

**History: 1 book required**

Select one from the list below.

**Avi. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead.***

In fourteenth-century England, thirteen-year-old Crispin, accused of a crime, becomes a wanted man and so must use a new identity and keep on the run in order to stay alive.

**Cadnum, Michael. *The Book of the Lion.***

Set in medieval England, young Edmund's life is forever changed when he joins Richard the Lionheart's army and fights in the Battle of Arsuf whereupon he learns important personal lessons about compassion and cruelty.

**English: 1 required memoir and 1 free-choice**

Select one memoir from below.

**Codell, Esme Raji. *Sing a Song of Tuna Fish.***

Codell writes about growing up in Chicago when she was ten.

**Jimenez, Francisco. *Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child.***

Offers a look at a migrant family, detailing their daily life and the struggles they endured to build an existence on the small opportunities they were given.

**Scieska, Jon. *Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up.***

Scieszka recounts boyhood adventures of being one of six boys in a family where his father is a school principal and his mother is a nurse.

**Select one free choice book. Either choose from the list below or select something comparable.**

**Bauer, Joan. *Hope was Here.***

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

**Cassidy, Cathy.**

***Dizzy.*** After an eight-year absence, Dizzy's "New Age traveler" mother suddenly shows up on her twelfth birthday and whisks her away to a series of festivals throughout Scotland in her rattletrap van.

***Indigo Blue.*** Eleven-year-old Indigo, her mother, and her toddler sister have to move out of their apartment because of troubles with Mum's boyfriend, while Indie is also having best friend problems at school, leaving her stressed, confused, and lonely.

***Scarlett.*** 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 feels part of a family again.

**Connor, Leslie. *Waiting for Normal.*** Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

**Creech, Sharon.**

***Heartbeat.*** Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

***Ruby Holler.*** Thirteen-year-old twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

***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.

***The Wanderer.*** Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

**Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart.***

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

**Or any from the *Inkheart* trilogy.**

**Hiaasen, Carl.**

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

***Hoot.*** Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

***Scat.*** Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

**Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker.***

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

**Or any from the Alex Rider series.**

**Howe, James. *Totally Joe.***

When he is given an assignment to write his autobiography on alphabetized cards during the span of a school year, Joe Bunch takes it on with little enthusiasm until his writing begins to help him understand himself, his feelings for his boyfriend Colin Briggs, and his place in the world as the misfit he thinks himself to be.

**Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass.***

Living among scholars in the hallowed halls of Jordan College, Lyra hears rumors of a magical dust that supposedly possesses powers that can unite whole universes, and begins a difficult and dangerous journey to find it.

**Or from His Dark Material series.**

**Reisman, Michael. *Simon Bloom: The Gravity Keeper.***

Nerdy sixth-grader Simon Bloom finds a book that enables him to control the laws of physics, but when two thugs come after him, he needs the formulas in the book to save himself.

**Or from the Simon Bloom series.**

**Shusterman, Neal. *The Schwa was Here.***

Despite how hard he tries, Calvin Schwa just can't seem to get noticed by anyone and becomes frustrated by his failure to make his mark in the world, but when his best friend begins to fade away, The Schwa can stand it no longer and decides to do something so drastic that no one will be able to miss him when he makes his next public appearance.

**Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It.***

Living with her mentally disabled mother who only knows just over twenty words, young Heidi has learned to live in her special world until a new word is suddenly used and repeated by her mother, causing Heidi to think it might be a key to a secret past about which she knows so little.

**Zindel, Paul. *The Gadget.***

In 1945, having joined his father at Los Alamos, where he and other scientists are working on a secret project to end World War II, thirteen-year-old Stephen becomes caught in a web of secrecy and intrigue.