

**Saint Patrick Catholic School**  
**Sixth through Eighth Grade**  
**Middle School Summer Reading Program**  
**2009**

*The Saint Patrick Catholic School Summer Reading Program is designed to motivate our students to continue developing their love for reading and learning throughout the summer months. Additionally, students can build their vocabulary, develop their reading skills, enjoy new stories and learn new information through summer reading.*

Students entering the sixth through eighth grades are required to read three selections during the summer months. Students are encouraged to review the list of suggested titles and make two selections from this list. Students may read titles that are not on the list if preapproved with their teacher. Upon completion of these selected readings, students are to select one prompt for each book to respond to from the list of *Summer Writing Prompts*. Selected prompts must be written out at the top of the paper. Students are to write a well-thought-out response (one to three paragraphs) demonstrating knowledge of the book and the characters. For guidance in formulating the responses, students should refer to the rubric provided. Responses will be collected and assessed by the Language Arts Teacher and incorporated into the First Quarter grade.

For their third book, students are required to read a specific title for their grade level. Students are not required to complete a prompt for this title, however they should come prepared on the first day with a **complete summary** of the text. This will help segue into a more in-depth literary analysis during the First Quarter:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade: *Freak, the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

**Summer Writing Prompts (Pick one per book, and identify on your )**

1. How do you feel about the main character in the book? Did he/she act responsibly or irresponsibly? Explain why with specific examples from the story.
2. Compare one character from the book to someone you know. How are they similar? Different? Give specific descriptions.

3. Synergy comes from the Greek word that means “Working together.” Between which two characters is there synergy? Why? What do they do together?
4. Choose a character, and pretend he/she is your brother/sister. How would that affect your life? Give specific information about the character when showing how he/she would affect your life. How would your life change? Not change?
5. Did you love, hate, couldn’t stop reading this book? What makes you feel that way? Give specific reason and examples from the book.
6. What did you learn from this book? Give thorough details.
7. **Suspense:** Did you, as the reader, wonder what would happen next? How did the author keep you in suspense? Or not? Give specific examples from the story as support. L
8. Does this book remind you of something you’ve personally experienced? Give details from the book and details about your personal experience.
9. Every writer created a make-believe world with made-up characters. Even if the world is different from your own, how does the author make the story seem possible or probable?
10. **Conflict:** Explain the main conflict. Was it realistic and developed effectively throughout the plot, events and characters? Give reasons?
11. **Climax:** What is the turning point of the story (the event that brings about the resolution, the most exciting part of the story)? Describe this event in details, and explain why you believe it to be the climax.
12. Tell about some experience in your life that came to mind as you read the book. Included supporting details.
13. **Humor/Sadness:** Did the book make you laugh? Cry?
14. **Setting:** Where does the action take place? Describe in detail. Is it a real place or make-believe? How could you tell?

### **Summer Reading Writing Prompt Rubric**

Reminder: Rewrite the questions you are responding to above your answer, and make sure to review this rubric when writing your responses.

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Organization & Focus	Answers the question completely and in an organized manner  Includes a sufficient topic sentence that restates the question	Addresses the question but gets off track at times  Has a weak topic sentence	Does not answer the question being asked  No topic sentence and lack of organization throughout the response
Content	Many relevant details and examples are included from the book and are relevant to the question	Few details and examples included from the book	Little to no supporting details included from the book
Understanding & Connections	Is able to make a meaningful connection with the book and to own personal experiences	Demonstrates a literal or basic understanding of the book	Shows little to no understanding of the book
Standard English Conventions	Control of sentence structure and grammar  Few errors exist relative to the length of essay or complexity of sentence structure	Errors interfere somewhat with the reading  Too many errors relative to the length of the essay or complexity of sentence structure	Errors seriously interfere with the writing making it difficult to read the response

## *Suggested Reading List for Sixth through Eighth Grade*

To peruse a list of 2009 and past Virginia Reader's Choice Novel Selections for Middle School, please visit [www.vusra.org](http://www.vusra.org). We encourage you to research these novels with your student to ensure proper reading level and content.

Additionally, other novels that you may choose to explore with your student—such as Newbery, Printz, Scott O'Dell, and Coretta Scott King Award Winners and Honors—may be found at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).

Please contact your teacher about preapproval of books not listed on these sites or this list. Ms. Swartley, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, may be reached at [lswartley@stpcs.org](mailto:lswartley@stpcs.org) and Mrs. Costanza, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, may be reached at [acostanza@stpcs.org](mailto:acostanza@stpcs.org).

### *Sixth through Eighth Grade Suggested Reading List*

*Airborn or Skybreaker*—Kenneth Oppel  
*Alex Rider* series—Anthony Horowitz  
*Ashes of Roses*—Mary Jane Auch  
*Artemis Fowl Series* – Eoin Colfer  
*Bat 6*—Virginia Euwer Wolff  
*Black Duck*--Janet Taylor Lisle  
*Blood on the River*—Elisa Carbone  
*Car Trouble*—Jeanne DuPrau  
*Chronicles of Narnia*—C.S. Lewis  
*Code Orange*—Caroline B. Cooney.  
*Code Talker*—Joseph Bruchac  
*Dark Hills Divide* or any book in Land of Elyon series – Patrick Carman  
*Eragon, Eldest, or Brisingr* – Christopher Paolini  
*Elijah of Buxton*—Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Far North*—Will Hobbs  
*Feathers*—Jacqueline Woodson  
*Free Baseball*—Sue Corbett  
*Ghost Girl*—Delia Ray  
*Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village*—Laura Amy Schlitz  
*The Graveyard Book*--Neil Gaiman  
*Hatchet*—Gary Paulsen

*Hattie Big Sky*--Kirby Lawson  
*Heat*—Mike Lupica  
*Hitler's Canary*—Sandi Toksvig  
*Inkheart or Inkspell* – Cornelia Funke  
*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*—Wendy Mass  
*Kidnapped or Treasure Island*-- Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Last Shot* or similar novels by the same author—John Feinstein  
*Little Women* or any of the books by same author--Louisa May Alcott  
*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*—Gary D. Schmidt  
*Lord of the Rings* series—J.R.R. Tolkien  
*Nothing But the Truth*--Avi  
*Peter and the Starcatchers* – Dave Barry  
*Phoenix Rising*—Karen Hesse  
*Redwall* series—Brian Jacques  
*Series of Unfortunate Events*—Lemony Snicket  
*Shakespeare's Secret*—Elise Broach  
*So B. It*—Sarah Weeks  
*Stanford Wong Flunks Big-time*—Lisa Yee  
*Stargirl* or *Love, Stargirl*—Jerry Spinelli  
*The Lightning Thief* or any of the Percy Jackson series—Rick Riordan  
*Thief Lord* – Cornelia Funke  
*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* or any of the books by same author—Mark Twain  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*—Brian Selznick  
*The Bomb*--Theodore Taylor  
*The Winter People* – Joseph Bruchac  
*Tiger Rising* – Kate DiCamillo  
*Travel Team* or similar novels by the same author—Mike Lupica  
*True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* - Avi  
*Warriors* series—Erin Hunter  
*White Fang*—Jack London

## *Novels About Roman Times for Sixth Grade Latin Enthusiasts*

*Detectives in Togas* – Henry Winterfeld  
*Mystery of the Roman Ransom* – Henry Winterfeld  
*The Thieves of Ostia* – Caroline Lawrence  
*The Pirates of Pompeii* – Caroline Lawrence