



STUART
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART

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Required Books for Summer 2021 Incoming Grades 5 and 6

All Middle School students are required to read at least **three** books over the summer. Rising 5th and 6th graders must read three books selected from the Recommended Reading List. For each book read, students will complete the attached critical reading assignment and bring it to class in the Fall. Students should submit three completed reading assignments to their English teacher on the first day of school. Additionally, students may choose to make notes as they read about something interesting, surprising, important, and/or emotional. Students should also jot down questions, and make connections and predictions as they read. Students are encouraged to record interesting or new words. Be prepared to share your notes in class.

2021 Summer Critical Reading Assignment

Complete this assignment for your required three texts and bring it to your first English class.

Please be sure your work is neatly written, and that you have proofread carefully!

Use an extra sheet of lined paper if necessary.

I. **Setting** - List 3 details about the setting--where the story takes place and the time period.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

II. **Main Characters** - List the main characters and two details about each one.

A. Character

1. _____

2. _____

B. Character

1. _____

2. _____

C. Charavter

1. _____

2. _____

III. **Plot** - List five main events from the story in the order that they happened.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

IV. **Story Summary** - Summarize the story in three sentences or less.

V. **Favorite Scene from the Book** - Describe the scene and explain why you liked it.

VI. **Critique of the Book** - Your comments can be positive or negative. Aspects of the book you might want to mention might include: character development, themes, writing style, symbolism.

A.

B.

C.

Recommended Reading for Incoming Grades 5 & 6

Realistic Fiction

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story*.

Relates how the lives of four children living in different parts of the country intersect and are affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

Burg, Ann E. *Serafina's Promise*.

In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and to be a doctor--then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother.

McAnulty, Stacy. *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*.

A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*.

Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between.

Burgos, Hilda Eunice. ***Ana María Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle.***

With a new sibling (her fourth) on the way and a big piano recital on the horizon, Dominican-American Ana María Reyes tries to win a scholarship to a New York City private school.

Chmakova, Svetlana. ***Awkward.***

After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member.

Draper, Sharon M. ***Blended.***

Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

Gemeinhart, Dan. ***The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise.***

Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished.

Griffin, Paul. ***Saving Marty.***

When Lorenzo adopts a runt piglet destined for auction, an unexpected, life-changing friendship forms.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. ***Shouting at the Rain.***

Delsie loves tracking the weather, living with her grandmother, and the support of friends and neighbors, but misses having a "regular family," especially after her best friend outgrows her. If you like this, try Hunt's other novels, ***Fish in A Tree*** or ***One for the Murphys.***

Jamieson, Victoria. ***All's Faire in Middle School.***

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

Kadohata, Cynthia. ***The Thing About Luck.***

Just when 12-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***The Land of Forgotten Girls.***

Abandoned by their father and living in poverty with their heartless stepmother in Louisiana, two sisters from the Philippines, twelve-year-old Sol and six-year-old Ming, learn the true meaning of family.

Khan, Hena. ***Amina's Voice.***

Pennypacker, Sara. ***Pax.***

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

Phillbrick, Rodman. ***Zane and the Hurricane.***

Zane Dupree and his dog, Bandit, fly from New Hampshire to New Orleans to visit his great-grandmother for the first time. Then Hurricane Katrina strikes. During the evacuation, Bandy runs off; Zane goes after him and is separated from Miss Trissy and trapped by the floodwaters.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. ***The Red Pencil.***

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

Reynolds, Jason. ***Patina.***

A newbie to the track team, Patina "Patty" Jones must learn to rely on her family and teammates as she tries to outrun her personal demons. Already read this? Try the rest of the ***Track*** series!

Rundell, Katherine. ***Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms.***

Wilhelmina Silver's world is golden. Living half-wild on an African farm with her horse, her monkey, and her best friend, every day is beautiful. But when her home is sold and Will is sent away to boarding school in England, the world becomes impossibly difficult. Lions and hyenas are nothing compared to packs of vicious schoolgirls.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. ***To Night Owl From Dogfish.***

Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through emails. Love this book? Try Ms. Sloan's other books, ***Short*** and ***Counting By 7s.***

Stead, Rebecca. ***Liar and Spy.***

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

Urban, Linda. ***The Center of Everything.***

Ruby Pepperdine has always done what she's supposed to, but on the day her beloved grandmother dies, Ruby didn't listen to her and now she's lost the center of everything. On her 12th birthday, Ruby makes a special wish that everything will be the way it's supposed to be again.

Uss, Christina. ***The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle.***

Left at the Mostly Silent Monastery as a toddler and home-schooled by a retired nun, twelve-year-old Bicycle

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

Lai, Thanhha. *Listen Slowly*.

A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother who is looking for the truth about what happened to her husband in the Vietnam War. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds.

rides cross-country to meet a famous cyclist who she hopes will be her first friend.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk*.

Recent immigrants from China desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao exploits them; while her mother does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.

Science Fiction and Fantasy

Appelt, Kathi and Alison McGhee. *Maybe A Fox*.

When her sister Sylvie goes missing on a snowy morning and is never seen again, Jules refuses to believe she is gone forever, meanwhile, in the shadow world, a shadow fox is born.

Armstrong, Kelley. *Loki's Wolves*.

In modern day South Dakota, 13-year-old Matt, a descendant of the Norse god Thor, and Fen and Laurie, descendants of Loki, the trickster god, must fight for the world's survival against monsters in an apocalyptic battle. Already read it? Read *Odin's Ravens*, instead.

Auxier, Jonathan. *Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster*.

In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*.

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Beasley, Cassie. *Tumble and Blue*.

In order for Tumble Wilson and Blue Montgomery to fix their ancestors' mistakes and banish the bad luck that has followed them around for all of their lives, they must face Munch, the mysterious golden alligator who cast the curse centuries ago.

Blakemore, Megan. *The Water Castle*.

After their father's stroke, Ephraim and his family move into an inherited mansion in Maine. Ephraim and his siblings, Mallory and Will, uncover a mystery involving hidden passageways, family rivalries, and healing waters.

Connolly, MarcyKate. *Monstrous*.

Kymera, who has a raven's wings, a snake's tail, and a cat's eyes and claws, loves the father who brought her back to life after a wizard killed her, but she begins to question his motives, especially after she connects with a boy in the town from which she is rescuing sick girls.

Cottrell Boyce, Frank. *Sputnik's Guide To Life On Earth*.

When Prez's grandfather is diagnosed with dementia, he's sent to live in a foster home, but when he meets a talking dog named Sputnik, together, they come up with a plan to save the world.

DasGupta, Sayantani. *The Serpent's Secret*.

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader in New Jersey, but then her parents disappear and a drooling demon shows up in her kitchen. Soon she is swept into another dimension, full of magic and cute princes. Kiranmala needs to sort it all out, find her parents, and save the world.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Falling In*.

Middle-schooler Isabelle Bean follows a mouse's squeak into a closet and falls into a parallel universe where the children believe she is the witch they have feared for years, finally come to devour them.

Graff, Lisa. *A Tangle of Knots*.

Destiny leads 11-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever.

Gidwitz, Adam. *The Inquisitor's Tale*.

Crossing paths at an inn, thirteenth-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee, and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound, the three of whom join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution.

Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot*.

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants. Already read this? Read the sequel, *The Wild Robot Escapes*.

Colfer, Chris. *The Wishing Spell*.

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. All *Land of Stories* tales.

Catmull, Katherine. *Summer and Bird*.

In the world of Down, young sisters Summer and Bird are separated and go in very different directions as they seek their missing parents, try to vanquish the evil Puppeteer, lead the talking birds back to their Green Home, and discover the identity of the true bird queen.

Holm, Jennifer. *The Fourteenth Goldfish*.

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter

Yolen, Jane. *The Hostage Prince*.

Prince Aspen and apprentice midwife Snail become unlikely companions during their escape from the Unseelie kingdom. The duo, a royal and a commoner, must overcome their antipathy toward each other and work together to survive a journey through royal courts and mystical woods. Already read it? Read the sequel, *The Last Changeling*, instead.

Historical Fiction

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Homework*.

It is 1936 in this final volume of the award-winning Alcatraz trilogy and 13-year-old Moose Flanagan faces new challenges when his father is promoted to Associate Warden and a fire breaks out in the family's apartment. If you haven't already read them, start with *Al Capone Does My Shirts* and *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*, first.

Dagg, Carole Estby. *Sweet Home Alaska*.

In 1934, eleven-year-old Terpsichore's father signs up for President Roosevelt's Palmer Colony project, uprooting the family from Wisconsin to become pioneers in Alaska, where Terpsichore refuses to let rough conditions and first impressions get in the way of her grand adventure.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Raymie Nightengale*.

Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Anybody Shining*.

In a series of letters to her cousin, twelve-year-old Arie Mae relates her life in a mountain valley of North Carolina in the 1920s when she befriends a boy visiting from Baltimore named Tom who walks with a limp but loves to explore.

Draper, Sharon M. *Stella by Starlight*.

In 1932, when a burning cross set by the Ku Klux Klan causes panic and fear in Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to

Levine, Kristin. *The Lions of Little Rock*.

Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

MacColl, Michaela. *Promise the Night*.

In Beryl's view, she should have been born to the Nandi tribe in east Africa. Headstrong and fearless, she'd prefer to track animals, wrestle, and spear targets than learn to be a proper English lady. Always seeking adventure, Beryl Markham makes history flying an airplane.

Parry, Rosanne. *Written in Stone*.

In the early 1920s, thirteen-year-old Pearl, a member of the Makah Native American tribe in the Pacific Northwest, loses her father in a whale hunt. While dealing with her grief and finding her way in the world, Pearl helps when her tribe's livelihood and traditional ways are threatened.

Scattergood, Augusta. *Glory Be*.

Gloriana faces her twelfth birthday in 1964, but while she struggles to understand the shift in her relationships with her sister--who is about to enter high school--and her best friend, Frankie, Gloriana witnesses tempers rise in a debate over a segregated public pool.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest*.

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter

demand change in her segregated town.

Ehrlich, Esther. *Nest*.

On Cape Cod in 1972, eleven-year-old Naomi, known as Chirp for her love of birds, gets help from neighbor Joey as she struggles to cope with her mother's multiple sclerosis and its effect on her father and sister.

Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*.

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out and Back Again*.

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. Newbery Honor. National Book Award Winner.

who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. Newbery Medal.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*.

In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her two sisters travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, CA, to spend a month with the mother they barely know. National Book Award Finalist. Newbery Honor. Scott O'Dell and Coretta Scott King Winner. Already read it? Follow the Gaither sisters in *P. S. Be Eleven* and *Gone Crazy in Alabama*.

Wolk, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow*.

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.

Mystery, Suspense, and Adventure

Auxier, Jonathan. *The Night Gardener*.

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Bell, Juliet. *Kepler's Dream*.

While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library.

Black, Holly. *Doll Bones*.

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. Newbery Honor.

Chambliss Bertman, Jennifer. *Book Scavenger*.

Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends. Already read it? Try the sequel, *The Unbreakable Code*.

Child, Lauren. *Ruby Redfort Look Into My Eyes*.

Skilled code-cracker and detective Ruby Redfort and her

Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*.

Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids inside the new library, funded by famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello, for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other kids compete to solve every clue and every secret puzzle to win Mr. Lemoncello's contest and, more importantly, find the hidden escape route. Already read it? Read the sequels, *Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics* or *Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race*.

Kittscher, Kristen. *The Wig in the Window*.

When their game of neighborhood spying takes a dark turn one night, pre-teen sleuths Sophie Young and Grace Yang find themselves caught in a dangerous cat-and-mouse game with their bizarre guidance counselor, who may be hiding something sinister.

Milford, Kate. *Greenglass House*.

At Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his winter holidays relaxing, but soon guests are arriving with strange stories about the house that send Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, on an adventure.

Miller, Jessica. *Elizabeth and Zenobia*.

When timid Elizabeth's father takes her and her fearless friend, Zenobia, to his family home, Zenobia becomes obsessed with finding a ghost there, and then Elizabeth learns she had an aunt who disappeared from the house years ago.

sidekick butler Hitch work for a secret crime-fighting organization called Spectrum, and Ruby remains calm as they face evil villains.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora and Ulysses*.

A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak. Newbury Medal.

Fitzgerald, Laura Marx. *Under the Egg*.

Her grandfather's dying words lead thirteen-year-old Theodora Tenpenny to a valuable, hidden painting she fears may be stolen, but it is her search for answers in her Greenwich Village neighborhood that brings a real treasure.

Rundell, Katherine. *Rooftoppers*.

When authorities threaten to take Sophie, twelve, from Charles who has been her guardian since she was one and both survived a shipwreck, the pair goes to Paris to try to find Sophie's mother, and they are aided by Matteo and his band of "rooftoppers."

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Secret Keepers*.

When twelve-year-old Reuben finds a peculiar, magical watch that has the power to turn its wearer invisible, he's propelled on the adventure of a lifetime.

Turnage, Sheila. *Three Times Lucky*.

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. Newbery Honor. Already read it? Choose *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing*, instead.

Classics

Dahl, Roald. *The Witches*.

A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who is an expert on witches, together foil a witches' plot to destroy the world's children by turning them into mice.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel. Already read it? Try the Graphic Novel!

Montgomery, Lucy M. *Anne of Green Gables*.

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

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

Tells the story of a young Native American girl stranded for eighteen years on San Nicolas Island, off the coast of California.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*.

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*.

After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

Biography and Nonfiction

Clinton, Chelsea. *It's Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired, and Get Going!*

With stories about children and teens who have made real changes big and small--in their families, their communities, in our country and across the world--this book will inspire readers to do their part to make our world a better place.

Nuchi, Adah. *Bunk 9's Guide to Growing Up: Secrets, Tips, and Expert Advice On the Good, the Bad, and the Awkward*.

All about your changing body from the girls of Camp Silver Moon.

Harris, Chris. *I'm Just No Good At Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups*.

An illustrated collection of comically irreverent rhyming poems for readers of all ages, ranging in topic from avocados and anacondas to zombies and zebras (dressed like ghosts.)

Kurlansky, Mark. *The World Without Fish*.

A master storyteller describes what is happening to fish, the oceans, and the environment in the early twenty-first century, explaining how commonly-consumed fish are disappearing and what kids can do about it.

Macy, Sue. *Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)*.

Combines primary sources to examine how women have used bicycles throughout history to improve their lives.

O'Connell, Caitlin and Donna M. Jackson. *The Elephant Scientist*.

Photographs and text recount Caitlin O'Connell's experiences observing African elephants in their natural habitat, describing her discoveries about elephant communication.

Sheinkin, Steve. *Lincoln's Grave Robbers*.

True crime story: In 1876, a group of Chicago counterfeiters conspired to steal President Lincoln's corpse from its grave near Springfield, Illinois, and hold it for ransom: \$200,000 and the release of their leader, counterfeiter Benjamin Boyd.

Wullfson, Don L. *Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions*.

Have you ever wondered who invented Lego, Mr. Potato Head, or toy trains? Here are the fascinating stories behind these toy inventions and many others. Learn why the see-saw was popular with the Romans, how the Slinky was used during the Vietnam War, and the reason Raggedy Ann has a red heart on her chest that says "I love you."

Source of book synopses: Titlewave, Follett Library Resources, <<http://www.flr.follett.com>>.