

Summer Required Reading 2017

Grades 6, 7 and 8 will be writing book reports this summer, using one of the “free choice” books listed below. You will **also** be responsible for reading the **required book** for each grade. The required books are:

- Grade 6 – Number the Stars (Lowry)
- Grade 7 – Fever 1793 (Anderson)
- Grade 8 – Brian’s Return (Paulsen)

We will be discussing these required books upon your return to class. Take **notes on note cards**, using the format that you will be using for your book report. Note cards must be turned in on the first day of school (August 28th). Note cards will be graded. (see page 3) Be prepared to discuss *plot, theme, characterization, setting, conflict and your opinion of the required book*.

There will be a test on the required reading, and you will take an Accelerated Reader quiz on both books.

FREE CHOICE BOOKS (book report due for this book – see attached sheet)

*****Book reports & note cards are due the first day of school: Monday, August 28th *****

6th Grade (choose one)

[Where the Red Fern Grows \(Rawls\)](#)

[House of Dies Drear \(Hamilton\)](#)

[A Taste of Blackberries \(Smith\)](#)

[Wonder \(Palacio\)](#)

[Wringer \(Spinelli\)](#)

[Hoot \(Hassan\)](#)

[The Island of the Blue Dolphin \(O’Dell\)](#)

7th Grade (choose one)

[The View from Saturday \(Konigsburg\)](#)

[Call Me Hope \(Olsen\)](#)

[Taking Sides \(Soto\)](#)

[Eggs \(Spinelli\)](#)

[Milkweed \(Spinelli\)](#)

[The Witch of Blackbird Pond \(Speare\)](#)

[The Phantom Tollbooth \(Juster\)](#)

8th Grade (choose one)

[The Boy in the Striped Pajamas](#)

[Esperanza Rising \(Ryan\)](#)

[Somewhere in Darkness \(Myers\)](#)

[Out of the Dust \(Hess\)](#)

[The Magician’s Elephant \(DeCamillo\)](#)

Summer Reading Book Report 2017

(on "free choice" book)

At Sacred Heart School, we don't believe that learning ends on the last day of school. We want you to keep learning and growing, so that when you return to school in August you will be ready. The purpose of a book report is to prove that you read the book. Please prove to me that you read and thought about the book by using the following format to write your 5-paragraph book report.

Remember to use the writing process – handwrite your ideas out on paper, organize them into an outline of the 5 paragraphs described below and *then* type it. Always remember to proofread your work. Don't be afraid to ask for peer editing either. Also, when discussing literature, use the present verb tense. For example: "*The main character just ~~wanted~~ wants to be a normal kid.*" When typing, **please double space and use Times New Roman 12-point font.**

In the first paragraph, name the **title** of the book (which should be underlined) and the **author**. Follow with the **main characters** you met, describing their personalities or qualities they possess and how they act. You may have to infer the characters' qualities or personalities; to infer, use actual events from the story that will prove those character qualities. Indicate which is the **protagonist** and the **antagonist**. This paragraph should be at least 5-6 sentences.

Setting, is a crucial element in any story. *In the second paragraph*, name the **time period** and **setting** (where the story takes place.) Setting is often described in books by sensory details (those that rely on your five senses). What did the setting smell like, look like? Include those descriptive words the author used to paint the setting's picture and then explain why the setting is an important element to this story.

Plot is the events that make up a story. *The third paragraph* is a brief description of the plot. You do not need to retell the entire plot; summarize it. Your summary should be longer than 3-4 sentences, yet it should be 3-4 pages. Discuss what type of **conflict** the main character faces (man vs. man; man vs. nature; man vs. himself; man vs. society). Explain how you determined what type of conflict it was; what in the story led you to your conclusion. Use specific examples. Make sure to cover all elements of the plot: the **introduction, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution** as you map out the plot.

The fourth paragraph should state the **main idea or theme** of the book. There is always more than one theme to a book – they can be big or small. Choose one that spoke to you. Remember **theme is the author's attempt to teach you or expose you to a life lesson**. How does this theme apply to your world? Explain what lesson you learned, or what big idea you took away with you.

Finally, in *the fifth paragraph*, conclude your book report. Offer an honest opinion of the book you read. Your opinion can be positive or negative, but you **must support your opinion with 3 conclusions drawn from your reading**. For example "*I feel the author did a great job with character development throughout the story. The way she described Mr. Smith's experience with the President was terrific. I was able to relate to him because of her description.*"

Have fun reading this summer! Your exploration of your book will lead you to a deeper appreciation of the author's craft. I can't wait to read your report!

- *Write note cards on these topics for the required reading.
- **Use these topics to guide on your "free choice" book report

SUMMER GUIDE FOR SUMMER READING 2017

PROTAGONIST: The main character. He/she is the hero of the story. In describing the qualities of the protagonist, write what actions portray those qualities. For example, if you list bravery as a quality, what did the protagonist do in the story that was brave? If you say friendliness, how did the protagonist act friendly toward others? Write about **at least three qualities**.

ANTAGONIST: The antagonist is also the main character, but he/she is usually a “bad” person, or the person who opposes or fights with the main character. The qualities this person possesses are usually not as positive. Write about **at least three qualities** of the antagonist, and describe the actions that portray those qualities. *If the antagonist is nature, you won’t need to list the qualities.*

CONFLICT: There are four types of conflict:

- **Man vs. Man:** When a character is literally fighting (or in conflict with) another character. Show the reason or reasons that this is the type of conflict, and say how or why it exists.
- **Man vs. Himself:** When there is an inner conflict within the character. For example, he has some type of problem that he can’t solve. Please say why this conflict exists.
- **Man vs. Nature:** When the character is fighting (or in conflict with) the earth, for example, a hurricane, drought or some other natural occurrence.
- **Man vs. Society:** When the character is fighting a group of people, such as the government. Please tell why he or she is fighting or in conflict with the group.

SETTING: The time period and place in which the story takes place.

PLOT: What the story is about (remember not to retell the entire story). It should be longer than one paragraph, but not 3-4 pages

CLIMAX: The turning point of the story; the moment of greatest dramatic interest. This is the **pivotal moment** in the story.

RESOLUTION: How the story finishes up. How does the author resolve the conflict? How do all the details come together to make sense in the end?

THEME: The main idea that the author is trying to express. What is the message the author wants the reader to take away? Frequently you will have to infer this. Be as clear as possible in explaining what lesson the author is trying to give you.

CRITICISM: Here is where you say how you felt about the book. Please use appropriate, grade-level language when discussing your opinion, and back up your ideas with specific examples.

***Note cards are summaries or important points - not complete sentences.