

Roanoke Catholic School
2020 *Suggested* Summer Reading for
Rising 8th Grade Students

Dear Rising 8th Grade Students & Parents:

Recreational reading is known to improve comprehension and writing skills, thus it remains a vital component in a student's academic success. While summer is a time to relax, I hope that you will take advantage of the time and read some books that we do not get to read during the busy school year. Parents and students can review the included list to determine which book is appropriate and interesting for their rising eighth grader. Students will have the option to complete an assignment. I look forward to hearing about and discussing your choice book in the upcoming year. Enjoy your summer and read away!

Sincerely,

8th Grade English Teacher

Suggested Reading:

Fantasy

Beowulf: A New Verse Translation, Seamus Heaney (Fantasy/Classic)

The Golden Compass, Philip Pullman (Fantasy)

The Ship of the Dead, Rick Riordan (Fantasy)

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Grace Lin (Fantasy)

Fiction

Around the World in Eighty Days, Jules Verne (Fiction)

The Call of the Wild, Jack London (Fiction)

Ghost, Jason Reynolds (Fiction)

Messenger, Lois Lowry (Fiction)

Piecing Me Together, Renee Watson (Fiction)

Summer of my German Soldier, Betty Greene (Fiction)

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith (Fiction)

The Three Musketeers, Alexandre Dumas (Fiction)

Historical Fiction

The Button War: A Tale of the Great War, Avi (Historical Fiction)

Chains, Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)

The Master Puppeteer, Katherine Paterson (Historical Fiction)

Milkweed, Jerry Spinelli (Historical Fiction)

Refugee, Alan Gratz (Realistic/Historical Fiction)

The Shakespeare Stealer, Gary Blackwood (Historical Fiction)

We Will Not Be Silent, Russell Freeman (Historical Fiction)

Mythology

Heroes, Gods, and Monsters of Greek Myths, Bernard Evslin (Mythology)

Nonfiction

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Reader's Edition), William Kamkwamba
(Nonfiction/Autobiography/Biography)

The Finest Hours (Young Reader's Edition): The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue, Michael Tougias and Casey Sherman (Nonfiction)

Night, Elie Wiesel (Nonfiction)

Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero, Larry Tye (Nonfiction)

Warriors Don't Cry, Melba Pattillo Beals (Nonfiction)

Writing About Summer Reading

Students may complete a **writer's journal** which will be due on **the first day of school**. The purpose of the assignment is to prompt students to begin thinking in an analytical manner that motivates them to think beyond basic plot summaries and characterizations; therefore, students should be noting thematic and symbolic meaning as well as character analyses and the writer's style, which will continue to develop their inference skills.

Students may respond to one of the choices or all of them, but they must adhere to the following format:

- All responses must be typed (12-pt Times New Roman font with one-inch margins), include the MLA first-page header, contain page numbers in the top right corner (if necessary), and must be double-spaced.
- Respond in complete sentences in paragraph form to each item.

Writing Responses:

1. Your First Impression

What was your first impression of this work? Why? Provide specific examples from the work to illustrate your points.

2. Plot

What are the most significant incidents in the story told in the work? (Do not summarize the entire story.) Who is/what are involved in the main conflict? What is the main conflict? What event serves as the climax of the story?

3. Character

Choose a character you like particularly well and choose a character who you dislike. Clearly identify each of the characters and explain your feelings about both characters. Support your opinions with specific material from the work.

4. Writer's Style

What is the overall mood of this work (sad, humorous, exciting, entertaining, informative, depressing, etc.)? Describe the writer's style (word choice and sentence structure, organization of the work). Is it difficult, easy, interesting, unusual, simple, or complicated to read? Support your opinion with examples.

5. Mood

What feelings/emotions did this reading evoke? Using quotation marks and providing page number(s), cite a brief passage that made you feel this way. Would you recommend this work to others? Why or why not? Provide specific reasons.