

SUMMER READING and WRITING ASSIGNMENTS RISING 8TH GRADERS (Class of 2012)

Read LOTS of books this summer! Strong reading skills help you in all subjects, and reading is the single most important preparation for the High School Placement Test. Reading can help you learn about any subject in the world and inspire your imagination. The assignments described below should be completed over the summer and turned in on the first day of school (Monday, August 29, 2011). Please put all three items into a single stapled booklet with a cover page that includes your name and a picture or drawing inspired by something you read over the summer. This assignment and the Diocesan reading list can also be found on the BSS website. Have a great summer!!

Part 1 - Required - Read the *Merchant of Venice*, by William Shakespeare (distributed 6/9/11)

This is a great book to begin our study of Shakespeare. Please read the whole book and complete the following activities. You may either do all of this on computer (Word and Excel) or use loose leaf paper. You are being given a numbered book from school, and you will need to bring that back to school with you and return it this fall.

- Keep a "vocabulary log" of all of the words you do not recognize or understand. Your log should be long since the spoken language during Shakespeare's time was different and he used rather sophisticated vocabulary. Please write the definitions for at least 25 of the words in your log (you may do more for extra credit).
- Write a 1-page essay summarizing the plot and key themes. The essay should also include your analysis of how the setting(s) supported the plot.
- Write a 2-page essay about your two favorite characters. Be sure your essay answers the following questions: (1) what did you like about each and why (use descriptive language and examples to support your statements); (2) how were they similar and different (compare and contrast); and (3) do these two characters remind you of anyone today, and in what ways?

Part 2 - Required - The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

As you prepare for Confirmation, you'll learn and think more about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. **Choose two from the Gifts list and two from the Fruits list.**

- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord**
- **Fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, trustfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity**
- Which two Fruits and which two Gifts did you choose?
- Write 1-2 paragraphs for each of the four (two Gifts, two Fruits) you chose, addressing the following things in your paragraphs: explain what it is, and why it is important; describe what kinds of actions on your part would reflect that Fruit or Gift and the Holy Spirit's presence; and include a specific example from your life in which you or someone you know demonstrated the Gifts and/or Fruits you chose.

Part 3 - Required - Reading Log

On the back of the sheet is a reading log. Please use the table to write down all books you read over the summer, starting on June 13. Include the title, author, main subject, what you liked most about the book, and whether you recommend it to others. This document is on the Blessed Sacrament School website.

8th Grade - Optional Summer Work

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT - Reading and Writing about Real People

A biography is a book someone writes about another person, and an autobiography is a book someone writes about his or her own life. Read two biographies or autobiographies about people who lived sometime between 1850 and the present, but who are no longer alive, and then complete an essay that compares and contrasts those two people. Consider choosing books about scientists or inventors; artists, composers, or writers; leaders; or people known for their service to others. You must include the following:

- Introductory paragraph introducing the two people you read about, when and where they lived, and why these two people are significant (why are there books about them).
- Two paragraphs about each person that summarize highlights from their lives.
- Three to five paragraphs that compare and contrast the two people (similarities and differences).
- One to two paragraphs about how their lives were similar to and different from your own.
- A closing paragraph that tells what you found most interesting about each person.
- Bibliography of the two books you read that includes the title, author, publisher, and publishing date of each book.
- Also list these two books on your reading log (see log form).

Students who complete this assignment at a level of quality that is average will receive 50 bonus points; if the level of quality is high, you may receive up to 100 bonus points at the start of your 8th grade year. If any of the people studied are scientists, some extra credit will be given in Science too.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT - Science in the Summer

Summer is the perfect season for Science. As additional optional extra credit, visit a science museum (such as the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, Arts and Industries, or Air and Space Museum here in DC, the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, the New York Hall of Science in New York, or the Exploratorium in San Francisco) and/or conduct some science experiments. For each one of these activities you undertake, do a one-half to one-page write up explaining what you did, where, what was most interesting to you and why, and what you learned from the experience. Each of these will be worth up to 20 bonus points, depending on the quality.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT - Social Studies

Mrs. McBride will hand out additional optional / extra credit options for Social Studies.

**Diocesan Reading List
Grades 7 and 8
Revised 2005/06**

Author	Title	Copyright date	Genre	Age	Setting / Ethnicity	Character Values
**Denotes Caldecott Winner						
Alexander, Lloyd	Chronicles of Prydain	1999	Fantasy	10+		
Alvarez, Julia	In the Time of the Butterflies	1994		13+		
Anderson, LaVere	Martha Washington: First Lady of the Land	1991	Biography			
Angelou, Maya	Maya Angelou: Poems	1997	Poetry	13+	African-	
Armstrong, William	Sounder**	1969	Historical	14+		
Asimov, Isaac	I, Robot series	1967	Science Fiction			
Avi	Crispin**	2002	Historical Fiction		Medieval	
Avi	The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**	2003	Historical/Sea Stories	13+	1800 Trans-	
Babbitt, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting	1975		All		
Baldwin, James	George Washington		Biography	12+		Yes
Banfield, Susan	Joan of Arc	1985	Biography	12+		Yes
Battistella, Bruna	Mary from Nazareth	1996	Religious	12+		Yes
Bauer, Joan	Hope Was Here	2000				
Bauer, Joan	Rules of the Road	1998				
Bauer, Joan	Sticks	1996				
Bauer, Marion	On My Honor	1986	Friendship			
Beatty, Patricia	Turn Homeward, Hannalee	1984	Historical	10+	Civil War	
Beatty, Patricia	Charley Skedaddle	1987	Historical	10+	Civil War	
Bellairs, John	The Trolley to Yesterday	1989	Mystery	11+		
Blackwood, Gary	The Shakespeare Stealer series	1998	Friendship			
Bloor, Eric	Storytime	2004				
Bloor, Eric	Tangerine	1997				
Brooks, Bruce	The Moves Make the Man	1988	Sports	14+		
Brooks, Phillip	Georgia O'Keefe: an Adventurous Spirit	1995	Biography			Yes
Brooks, Phillip	Mary Cassat: an American in Paris	1995	Biography			
Bunting, Eve	Flour Babies	1994				
Cameron, Ann	The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods	1998				
Card, Orson Scott	Ender's Game	2002	Science Fiction			
Carlson, Lori M.	Cool Salsa	1994	Poetry	12+	Latino	
Christopher, John	The White Mountains	1967	Science Fiction	12+		
Cohen, Joel H.	Norman Rockwell: America's Best-Loved Illustrator	1997	Biography			
Cooney, Caroline	The Face on the Milk Carton	1990	Suspense	12+		
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons**	1994				
Creech, Sharon	Wanderer	2000				

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Cushman, Karen	Catherine, Called Birdy	1994	Historical		Middle Ages/Englan	
Cushman, Karen	Midwife's Apprentice**	1995	Historical	13+	Medieval	
Dana, Barbara	Young Joan	1991	Biography	12+	France	Yes
Danziger, Paula	Snail Mail No More	2000	Humorous			
Fast, Howard	April Morning	1961	Historical		United	
Feinstein, John	Last Shot: Final Four Mystery	2005	Sports/Mystery			
Fleischman, Paul	Whirligig	1998				
Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain**	1945	Historical Fiction		American Revolution	
Fox, Paula	One-Eyed Cat	1987	Realistic	13+		
Frank, Anne	The Diary of a Young Girl	1958	Autobiography	13+	World War II: Netherlands	
Freedman, Russell	Eleanor Roosevelt: a Life of Discovery	1993	Biography			
Freedman, Russell	Voice that Challenged the Nation** (Marian Anderson)	2004	Biography			
George, Jean C.	Julie of the Wolves**	1973	Adventure	10+		
Giff, Patricia Kelly	Lily's Crossing	1997	Historical		World War II	
Hahn, Mary Downing	Stepping on the Cracks	1991	Historical		World War II	
Hamilton, Viginia	M.C. Higgins, The Great**	1974	Historical	13+	African-	
Hesse, Karen	Letters from Rifka	1992				
Hesse, Karen	The Music of Dolphins	1996				
Hesse, Karen	Out of the Dust	1997				
Hinton, S. E.	The Outsiders	1967	Realistic			
Hobbs, Will	Jason's Gold <i>and others</i>	1999				
Hoffman, Mary	City of Masks	2002	Fantasy			
Jacques, Brian	Redwall series	1986	Fantasy	11+		
Jones, Diana Wynne	Merlin Conspiracy	2003	Fantasy			
Kelly, E.	Trumpeter of Krakow**	1966	Historical			
Konigsburg, E.L.	The View from Saturday	1996	Friendship	10+		
Lester, Julius	To Be a Slave	1968	Non-Fiction	10+	Black	
Lowry, Lois	The Giver**	1993	Fantasy	13+		
Lowry, Lois	Number the Stars**	1989	Historical	All		
Magorian, Michelle	Good Night, Mr. Tom	1981				
McGraw, Eloise	The Golden Goblet	1986	Historical	11+	Ancient	

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McKinley, Robin	Hero and the Crown	1984	Fantasy	10+		
McKissack, Pat	The Dark Thirty	1992	Folk tales		African-	
Meltzer, Milton	Voices From the Civil War	1989	Historical Non-Fiction	All		
Morpugo, Michael	War of Jenkin's Ear	1995	Religious	14+	1951	
Murphy, Jim	The Great Fire**	1995	Historical Non-Fiction			
Nixon, Joan Lowery	Land of Hope (Ellis Island series)	1992	Historical	10+	Ellis	
O'Dell, Scott	Sing Down the Moon**	1970	Historical	10+		
Orlev, Uri	The Man from the Other Side	1991	Historical	14+	Poland	
Parks, Linda Sue	Single Shard**	2001				
Paterson, Katherine	Jacob Have I Loved**	1980	Family	12+		
Peck, Robert Newton	A Day No Pigs Would Die	1972	Historical	13+	Rural	
Perkins, Lynne Rae	Criss Cross**	2005	Realistic			
Rinaldi, Ann	Amelia's War	1999	Historical		Civil War	
Rinaldi, Ann	Girl In Blue	2001	Historical			
Rinaldi, Ann	Quilt Trilogy	1994	Historical			
Rinaldi, Ann	The Staircase	2000	Historical	11+		Yes
Snyder, Zilpha	The Egypt Game <i>and others</i>	1967				
Spinelli, Jerry	Crash	1996	Realistic			
Sutcliffe, Rosemary	Eagle of the Ninth <i>and others</i>	1993				
Taylor, Mildred	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**	1976	Historical	12+	African-	
Tolan, Stephanie	Surviving the Applewhites	2002	Realistic			
Tolkien, J. R. R.	The Hobbit	1966	Fantasy	12+		
Tolkien, J. R. R.	The Lord of the Rings Trilogy	1966	Fantasy	12+		
Voigt, Cynthia	Homecoming	2002	Realistic	12+		
Voigt, Cynthia	Dacey's Song	1981	Realistic	12+		
Yep, Lawrence	Dragonwings	1975	Historical	13+	Chinese-	
Yolen, Jane	Boots and the Seven Leaguers A Rock And Troll Novel	2000	Fantasy			
Yolen, Jane	The Devil's Arithmetic	1998	Historical	11+	Holocaust	