Saint James Middle School

2014–2015

Summer Reading

Eighth Grade
The reading program at Saint James Middle School is designed to broaden our students' knowledge of good literature and to provide them additional background for the coming school year. We encourage our students to read and to discuss the texts that are read. Research has shown consistent connections between proficiency with reading comprehension and certain activities, for example:

- The availability of reading material in the home.
- Parental modeling of good reading habits.
- Reading and/or being read to regularly for enjoyment.
- Discussing what you have read with someone or otherwise responding to what you have read.

We believe our summer reading program truly emphasizes the love of reading. Our program provides 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with a wide range of reading choices. Our 8th grade summer reading program complements the history and advanced literature curriculum. Our focus in 8th grade requires more detailed application, which will hopefully provide our 8th graders with a smoother transition into the high school the following year.

Our ultimate goal is to encourage students to read appropriate selections that can challenge and improve their reading comprehension. We believe our summer reading program will help our students reach this goal while also providing them with a greater appreciation for reading. We hope each student will find these reading assignments will enhance his/her summer experience.

JB Copeland
This reading guide is intended to provide an overview of the reading program for grades 8. **Families do NOT need to purchase the required outside novels because the school will provide these novels as part of your child’s tuition.**

**8th Grade**

Assassin

The Mississippi Trial 1955

The Outsiders

Dark Water Rising

Rebecca (8+ English)

Anna Myers

Chris Crowe

S.E. Hinton

Marian Hale

Daphne Du Maurier

**Exploratory Requirements**

Every 8th grade student will take Trojan Reading Guild, a 9-week exploratory class, during the school year. Students will read several teacher-selected or self-selected titles for this course. Students will have an opportunity to complete the majority of the reading for this class during the exploratory period. Since our library is used as a resource for this exploratory, students typically do not need to purchase any books.
8th Grade Summer Reading:

8th grade summer reading has several purposes. One purpose is to encourage reading. Readers are ALWAYS better writers and have larger vocabularies. Another purpose is to encourage critical thinking. The Summer Reading Assessment takes students through all stages of Bloom's Taxonomy to go deeper and to go beyond simple reading comprehension. We will continue to work through these levels as we read all year long in 8th grade to prepare for high school and college level reading. One last, but important, purpose is to blend reading with writing. Students are required to not only recall events from the novels, but to think about events, characters, and situations and to form written responses that require skills in grammatical structure and mechanics. Most of all, through this process, we hope that you will find a book and fall in love with it! There are lots of titles from which to choose. Happy Reading!

*In-coming 8th graders taking grade level English will select ONE book from the attached summer reading list for their summer reading requirement. Each student must complete the assignment below and give it to the student's Vocabulary teacher on the first day of school for a quiz grade in Vocabulary. Advanced English students will not complete this assignment. Those students will read The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and will complete a different assignment.

*In choosing a book, you may find it helpful to visit a web site to read a brief synopsis of each selection. Although you will NOT take an AR test on this book, [www.arbookfinder.com](http://www.arbookfinder.com) gives a brief summary of most of the books, which you may find helpful in finding a book that interests you. You are responsible for borrowing (from the local library, or a friend) or purchasing your summer reading book.
Questions for Summer Reading Assessment

Directions: Answer all questions from each section (Knowledge, Comprehension, Analysis, Synthesis, Evaluation) below to answer about your book. You will answer a total of ten questions. Answer each question in complete sentences. Make sure to answer the questions completely (all parts of the question). Write your answers on notebook paper in pencil or blue or black ink and number the questions you are answering. You will give your work to your vocabulary teacher on the first day of school.

Section 1: Knowledge

What is the time period in which this story takes place? Tell how you know by giving examples from the book that support your answer. If you don't know a specific date or decade, give a general answer (ancient times, colonial times, future, etc.).

2. Describe the main character of the book. Be sure to include actions, looks, general attitude, age, etc.

Section 2: Comprehension

3. What genre (realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, non-fiction, etc.) of book is this? Give three evidences of this from the text.

4. How does the protagonist (main character) change throughout the course of the book? Give at least three examples to support your answer.

Section 3: Analysis

5. In a paragraph of no less than five sentences, state the theme (for fiction) or main idea (for non-fiction) of the book and tell how you know this...give examples from the text. Remember that theme in fiction is the message that the author is trying to get across to the reader.

6. In a solid paragraph of no less than five sentences (you may write more), compare and contrast two of the main characters in the book.

Section 4: Synthesis

7. What part of the story would you change in the story and why? Be sure to answer in complete sentences.

8. Identify one conflict (problem) in the book and give an alternative solution, not one
given by the author. Tell what you would have done differently and WHY.

**Section 5: Evaluation**

9. If you could save one character from your book in the event of a disaster (think tornado, hurricane, tsunami, fire, flood, etc...), which one would it be and why. Make sure you give specific reasons (“I like him” is not good enough). Answer in at least three good sentences.

10. Did you like the way the story ended? Why or why not? Tell how the story ended in two or three sentences, then explain how you feel about the ending and give a solid reason for your opinion.
Summer Reading List
Grade 8 English

Adams, Douglas
An, Na
Anderson, M.T.
Avi
Barber, Tiki
Barry, Dave
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell

Becker, Tom
Bell, Hilari
Bell, Ted
Berry, Julie
Brashares, Ann
Breen, M.E.
Bruchac, Joseph
Bunce, Elizabeth C.
Cater, Anne
Clayton, Emma
Colfer, Eoin
Collins, Susanne
Collins, Susanne
Cooney, Caroline B.
Cooney, Caroline B.
Cooney, Caroline B.
Caroline B.
Cormier, Robert
Coy, John
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph
Delaney, Joseph

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe
*The Fold
*Jasper Dash and the Flam Pits of Delaware
*The Traitor's Gate
*True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
*Go Long!
Peter and the Sword of Mercy
*The Boy Who Dared: A Novel Based on the True Story of a Hitler Youth
*Lifeblood
*Sword of Waters
Nick of Time
*The Amaranth Enchantment
*3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows
*Darkwood
*March Toward the Thunder
*A Curse Dark as Gold
*The Shepherd's Granddaughter
*The Roar
The Supernaturalist
*Catching Fire
*Mockingjay
Goddess of Yesterday
*Driver's Ed.
Enter Three Witches
*The Face on the Milk Carton
*If the Witness Lied Cooney,
*They Never Came Back
Tunes for Bears to Dance To
*Box Out
*Attack of the Fiend (The Last Apprentice Series)
*Clash of the Demons (The Last Apprentice Series)
*Curse of the Bane (The Last Apprentice Series)
*Grimalkin The Witch Assassin(The Last Apprentice Series)
*Lure of the Dead (The Last Apprentice Series)
*Night of the Soul Stealer(The Last Apprentice Series)
*Rage of the Fallen (The Last Apprentice Series)
*Revenge of the Witch (The Last Apprentice Series)
*Rise of the Huntress (The Last Apprentice Series)
Hesse, Karen *Brooklyn Bridge
Hesse, Karen *Out of the Dust
Hiaasen, Carl *Flush
Hiaasen, Carl *Scat
Higgins, Jack *Sharp Shot
Hill, Stuart The Cry of Icemark
Hobbs, Will *Downriver
Hobbs, Will *Down the Yukon
Hobbs, Will *Far North
Hobbs, Will *Ghost Canoe
Hobbs, Will Go Big or Go Home
Hobbs, Will *Jason's Gold
Holm, Anne I Am David
Holm, Jennifer Our Only May Amelia
Horowitz, Anthony *Ark Angel
Horowitz, Anthony *Crocodile Tears
Horowitz, Anthony *Necropolis
Horowitz, Anthony *Scorpia Rising
Horowitz, Anthony *Snakehead
Houston, Jeanne Farewell to Manzanar
Ibbotson, John *The Landing
Ingold, Jeanette Hitch
Ingold, Jeanette Mountain Solo
Irving, Washington *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
Jones, V.M. *Out of Reach
Kehret, Peg *Runaway Twin
Kidd, Ronald *The Year of the Bomb
Klages, Ellen *White Sands, Red Menace
Klages, Ellen Nothing to Fear
Jackie French *The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World
Konigsburg, E. *Pop
Korman, Gordon *The Séance
Lawrence, Iain *The Castaways
Lawrence, Iain Mr. Revere and I
Lowry, Lois *The Willoughbys
Lupica, Mike *Million-dollar Throw
Lupica, Mike *Million-dollar Kick
Marshall, Catherine *Christy
Mikaelsen, Ben *Touching Spirit Bear
Mitchell, Saundra *Shadowed Summer
Meyer, Carolyn Maria, Dancing
Meyer, Carolyn *In Mozart's shadow: His Sister's Story
Meyer, Carolyn *The True Adventures of Charley Darwin
Na, An *The Fold
Nimmo, Jenny *Charlie Bone and the Beast
Nimmo, Jenny *Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors
Nimmo, Jenny *Charlie Bone and the Hidden King
Nimmo, Jenny *Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy
Nimmo, Jenny *Charlie Bone and the Time Twister
Nimmo, Jenny *Midnight for Charlie Bone
O'Brien, Johnny *Day of the Assassins: A Jack Christie Novel
O'Dell, Scott *The King's Fifth
Oppel, Kenneth *Half Brother
Patterson, James *Angel
Patterson, James *Maximum Ride: The Final Warning
Patterson, James *Maximum Ride: Max
Patterson, James *Witch and Wizard
Paver, Michelle *Oath Breaker
Paver, Michelle *Outcast
Paver, Michelle *Spirit Walker
Paver, Michelle *Wolf Brother
Peacock, Shane *Death in the Air
Pearson, Mary *The Fox Inheritance
Pearson, Mary *The Miles Between
Pearson, Mary *The Adoration of Jenna Fox
Preus, Margi *The Heart of a Samurai
Qamar, Amjed *Beneath My Mother's Feet
Ramthun, Bonnie *The White Gates
Raskin, Ellen The Wrestling Game
Rawlings, Marjorie *The Yearling
Rawls, Wilson *The Summer of the Monkeys
Reiss, Johanna The Upstairs Room
Rinaldi, Ann Secret of Sarah Revere
Riordan, Ann *The Battle of Labyrinth (The Percy Jackson Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Last Olympian (The Percy Jackson Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Lightning Thief (The Percy Jackson Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Lost Hero (Heroes of Olympus Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Mark of Athena (Heroes of Olympus Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Red Pyramid
Riordan, Rick *The Sea of Monsters (The Percy Jackson Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Serpent's Shadow
Riordan, Rick *The Son of Neptune (Heroes of Olympus Series)
Riordan, Rick *The Throne of Fire
Riordan, Rick *The Titan's Curse (The Percy Jackson Series)
Roth, Veronica *Divergent
Roth, Veronica *Insurgent
Rylant, Cynthia A Fine White Dust
Schmidt Gary D. *Trouble
Sewell, Anna Black Beauty
Sherlock, Patti *Letters from Wolfie
Shusterman, Neal *Antsy Does Time
Slade, Arthur *The Hunchback Assignment
Smelcer, John *The Great Death
Smith, Roland The Captain's Dog
Smith, Roland *I.Q.
Smith, Roland *Peak
Snow, Maya *Sisters of the Sword
Spinelli, J. *Stargirl
Stevenson, Robert Louis *Kidnapped
Stewart, Mary *The Crystal Cave
Taylor, Theodor *The Cay
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings trilogy (3 titles)
Twain, Mark *The Adventures of Mark Twain
Voigt, Cynthia Sons from Afar
Voigt, Cynthia *Tree by Leaf
Wallace, Bill Coyote Autumn
Weaver, Will *Super Stock Rookie
Westerfeld, Scott *Leviathan
Whelan, Gloria After the Train
Whelan, Gloria Burying the Sun
Whelan, Gloria *Goodbye, Vietnam
Whelan, Gloria The Locked Garden
Winerip, Michael *Adam Canfield, the Last Reporter
Winerip, Michael Adam Canfield of the Slash
Winerip, Michael *Adam Canfield, Watch Your Back
Wrede, Patricia *Thirteenth Child
Yep, Laurence The Mark Twain Murders
Zindel, Paul *The Doom Stone
Zindel, Paul *Loch
Zindel, Paul *The Pigman
Zindel, Paul Rats
Zindel, Paul *The Undertaker’s Gone Bananas

* Denotes a Saint James library book. Though you will not be able to check a book out of the school library for the summer, the library (before the end of May) will make an excellent resource for previewing books to help in your selection.

**Advanced 8th Grade Literature:**
**Advanced 8th Grade English**

Incoming 8th graders taking Advanced English will not use the Summer Reading List, but are required to read Mark Twain's The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. There are several classic versions from which to choose. Usually the classic versions have either a ‘forward’ or an ‘afterward.’ Please note that many editions are not the classic version and are abridged. The non-classic versions are unacceptable. You will be quizzed on comprehension of the book on the first day of school, then we will discuss the book in class for a couple of days and test on the novel during the first couple weeks of school. These items are meant to help prepare you for the quiz and the test. Bring this work to English on the first day of school. The quiz will be counted as a quiz grade in Vocabulary
class. The test will be a test grade in Advanced English.

A. Before you read the novel, answer the following questions about Mark Twain. You can find these answers at www.marktwainmuseum.org or other cites about this author.

What is Mark Twain’s real name?
Where did he grow up?
Why is the river an important part of his works of literature?
Name three of his famous works.
What does “mark twain” mean?
Who was the character Becky Thatcher modeled after? Tell a little about the real person.
Where is the Mark Twain boyhood home and museum?

B. During your reading of the novel:
*Pay attention to the vocabulary Twain uses. Highlight words you are unfamiliar with.
Define the following (according to the definition uses in the novel). Some of these will be on the test.

benediction       inquest       solemnity       lugubrious
consternation    melancholy    stolid         miscreant
crestfallen       odious        vindictive     wistfully
hampered          pariah        harum-scarum   pious

*Select scenes that are entertaining (simply meant to be funny or interesting) and those that make a point about society (for example..pointing out something negative about the education system of the day). Make a chart to organize these.

*Think about which characters fit the following characteristics and how. Which character fits into each characteristic the BEST?:
love of freedom       love of adventure
love of the dramatic desire to fit into society
concern for others   love of pranks and jokes
courage              resourcefulness or cleverness

*Think about how the following themes are exemplified in the novel:
adult authority       children at play       church/religious training
goodness               economics               education/school
morality               human nature           superstitions
young love             growth and maturity       conscience

*Remember, there will also be a comprehension quiz on the first day of school. You will use all of the material from the novel for a test at the beginning of the semester.
Break With Charity

Suggested Study Guide

In addition to reading the Literature requirement, you will also be required to read a book entitled *A Break With Charity* by Ann Rinaldi. This is a novel about the Salem Witch Trials that took place in the late 1600's here in a newly settled America. Ann Rinaldi masterfully weaves the actual people who were either participants or victims of the Salem Witch Trials into her story and centers her tale around a family who was deeply affected by the events that took place during that disturbing time. *A Break With Charity* is a wonderful novel that will help get you ready for the first two weeks of school.

You will be having a test on this novel during the first three weeks of school. We will have one day of review/reading in class… this is strictly an outside novel. Here are my suggestions:

1. Read the book ALL THE WAY THROUGH before trying to fill out people, questions, etc. You will miss out on the excitement and fervor of the book if you are stopping constantly to write things down.

2. The questions below are OPTIONAL!!! You will not be turning this in to me… it is strictly for you to use if you need a guide of some sort for the book.
The characters below are the main ones that you will be responsible for knowing. You will need to be aware of their significance and the role they played during the Salem Witch Hunt/Trials.

Tituba

Phillip English

Ann Putnam, Jr.

Goody English (Mrs. English)

Joseph Putnam

Susannah English

Giles Cory

Reverend Paris

Abigail Hobbs

Sarah Good

Reverend Burroughs

John Dorich

Jonathan Hathorne, Jr.

Rebecca Nurse

** Please note that the terms Goody and Goodman are the equivalent of Mr. and Mrs.
Comprehension

After you have read the novel, go back through and answer the following:

1. When and where do the events of this novel take place?

2. Who was the father of Susanna English?

3. Why did the circle of girls who visited Tituba dislike Susanna?

4. When Dr. Griggs examined Betty Parris and Abigail Williams, what did he say their strange fits were caused by?

5. When the ministers prayed over the afflicted girls, what did they order them to do?

6. Why were Sarah Good and Sarah Osbourne accused of witchcraft?

7. When and why did Susanna’s friend Johnathan Hathorne begin to doubt the truth of the witchcraft accusations?
8. According to Tituba, when would Susanna's brother return from the sea?

9. How did the evening celebration of Mary English's engagement to Thomas Hitchbourne end?

10. What did Susanna's brother William inform his family of in a letter?

11. Who was the first witch hanged on Gallows Hill?

12. What was the real reason Susanna stayed in Salem when her sister moved to Boston?

13. To whom did Susanna tell that the afflicted girls were pretending their symptoms and accusing innocent people?

14. Why did Susanna miss the chance to visit with her parents at John Alden's house in Boston?

15. Who did Susanna have a late night conversation with on Gallows Hill which convinced her that there were no witches?

16. How was Giles Cory executed for witchcraft?
17. How did Susanna keep her promise to Mary Bradbury?

18. In the prologue and epilogue of the novel, why is Susanna in church 14 years after the witch hysteria?

19. Did Susanna English consult Tituba to learn the identity of her future husband?

20. Were nineteen innocent people hanged and one pressed to death during the Salem witchcraft hysteria?

21. Did Tituba tell Susanna that her brother would die at sea?

22. Did Salem town officials and ministers encourage girls to learn to read and write?

23. Did young Ann Putnam threaten to accuse Susanna's parents of witchcraft if Susanna told people that the circle of afflicted girls was pretending to be bewitched?

24. Was Tituba the first Salem resident accused of witchcraft?
25. Did Abigail Hobbs confess to being a witch and then accuse her own parents of witchcraft?

26. Did Susanna English live with Reverend Parris while her parents were in jail?

27. Did Ann Putnam keep her promise by not accusing Susanna’s parents of witchcraft?

28. Were prisoners or their families required to pay their board while they were in jail?

29. Did the Governor of Massachusetts set up a special court, called the Court of Oyer and Terminer, to try the accused witches?

30. What does spectral evidence mean?

31. Were accused witches who refused to confess hanged? What happened to those who did confess?

32. Were Phillip English’s home and belongings confiscated by the sheriff after his arrest?

33. Were Susanna’s parents tried and convicted of witchcraft in Salem?
34. Did Susanna believe that Mary Bradbury was a witch who intended to harm her brother after her meeting with Captain Sam Endicott?

35. Did Giles Cory protect his family's right to inherit his property by refusing to testify in court and avoiding a guilty verdict?

36. Were the parents of Susanna English two of the nineteen people hanged in Salem during the witchcraft hysteria?

37. Did Susanna ever forgive Ann Putnam for her role in the witch hysteria?

38. Does Susanna know how Sam Endicott knew that William would return to Salem on a ship named the Amiable Tiger?
In addition to the Literature novel and *Break with Charity*, you will also be required to read “The Ballad of Frankie Silver” . This is a novel that takes place in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. This book is based on a true event and woman that lived in the early 1800's in this area. The book is a murder mystery! An 1830's murder, trial, and punishment parallels a modern day murder, trial, and punishment and it has the Sheriff searching for clues in both murders. “The Ballad of Frankie Silver” will feature themes we will use throughout history this year such as: justice, crime and punishment, equality under the law, and prejudice. I believe you will thoroughly love this book! Below I have discussion questions that the author, Sharyn McCrumb, compiled for this novel and they are very good ones! Please answer type the answer to each question using complete sentences and in paragraph form. Be prepared to turn in to me on Friday, August 9th, our first full day of school. This will count as a your first quiz grade.

**Discussion Questions for "The Ballad of Frankie Silver" by Sharyn McCrumb**

(Questions compiled by Sharyn McCrumb)

1. Why did the author choose to tell the story from the point of view of Burgess Gaither instead of using Frankie Silver herself as narrator?

2. In Frankie Silver's time, Burke County stretched all the way to the Tennessee line, with Morganton as county seat for all of it. Today the Silvers' home is located in Mitchell County (a county founded in 1861), whose county seat Bakersville is less than 10 miles from their home. Would a trial conducted by mountain people in Bakersville instead of by the planter class in Morganton have had any effect on the outcome?

3. Twenty-seven years after the execution of Frankie Silver, the Civil War began, and North Carolina seceded from the Union. The flatland part of the state was devoutly Confederate, but the mountain part of North Carolina favored the Union. Can you see that political split between flatland and mountain foreshadowed in the circumstances of the case of Frankie Silver?

4. How does the case of Fate Harkryder parallel the case of Frankie Silver? Why was it included in the novel?

5. If you were defending Frankie Silver in court, how would you have handled the case and what evidence would you have presented?
6. How does this case change Burgess Gaither?

7. Both John Sevier and Frankie Silver escaped from the Morganton jail. Find out what became of John Sevier. How do you explain the difference in their fates?

8. Talk about Miss Mary. Was she born ahead of her time? What would she be like today?

9. Why did Isaiah Stewart tell Frankie to die without speaking?

10. Why did the governor refuse to pardon Frankie Silver even though half the original jury signed the petition requesting it?