

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE – 5

REQUIRED BY CLASS TEACHER

1. *The Mysterious Benedict Society – Trenton Lee Stewart

CHOOSE ONE

2. A Single Shard – Linda Sue Park
Letters from Rifka – Karen Hesse
A Year of Impossible Goodbyes – Sook Nyul Choi
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes – Coerr
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond – Elizabeth George Speare

CHOOSE ONE

3. The Dragon in the Sock Drawer – Kate Klimo
The Castle in the Attic – Elizabeth Winthrop
*When Life Gives You O.J. – Erica Perl
Regarding the Fountain -Kate Klise

CHOOSE ONE FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST

4. My Side of the Mountain – Jean Craighead George
Because of Mr. Terupt – Rob Burgea
The Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963 – Christopher Paul Curtis
Long Way to Chicago – Richard Peck
*The Dollhouse Murders – Betty Ren Wright
Countdown - Wiles
Small Steps –Peg Kehret
Out of My Mind – Sharon Draper

*2014-2015 Battle of the Books

BOOK REPORTS

You are to complete a book report for each of the assigned books. I have included some ideas on ways to report on the books. You may write a book report following the classic format, or try one of the other ideas. You may choose a different kind of report for each book if you would like.

CLASSIC FORMAT

The classic format usually includes:

Introductory paragraph: In the first paragraph, include the author, title, and a one or two sentence description of the idea of the book.

Plot summary: Describe the plot in one or two additional paragraphs. Your teacher will be looking for references to the elements of the book like character, setting, and theme.

Analysis: This is the meat of your book report and your chance to give your own opinion and review of the book in two or three paragraphs. What makes it believable? Why is it funny? How is it disturbing? What is surprising? Was there an exceptional character? Could you relate to any of the characters or the action in the story?

Conclusion: Finish up with a short paragraph summarizing your review.

BOOK REVIEWER

Pretend that you are a book reviewer for a news service for kids. Your assignment is to report, in an enthusiastic manner, on the book of your choice. Summarize your book and give your opinion as the closing comment.

PROBLEM CHARACTER

Report about a character in your book that causes problems. Describe how this character looks and acts. What problems does he or she cause? What effect does this character have on the main character? How does the story end for the difficult character?

TEST OR TRIAL

In early myths and legends, the main character often had to pass a test or trial. Does the main character in your book have to prove himself or herself through a test of some kind? If so, what is the test? What personal qualities, talents, or skills are needed for success?

STORY MAP

Make a story map. Begin by drawing the setting of your book. The setting could be a country or just the inside of a house. On your map, show the places where major characters have lived or visited and where important events and meetings have taken place. Make symbols to stand for characters, events, and special places. Prepare a legend to explain these symbols. On the back of your map, write a short summary of the book.