

Saints Peter and Paul

Summer Reading Program

Entering Fifth Grade

Directions: Students must read 3 books for summer reading. They will complete a written assignment for both books in September.

Required Reading:

Fiction:

***Esperanza Rising*, Pam Munoz Ryan**

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico — she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances — Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

***Tiger Rising*. Kate DiCamillo**

Walking through the misty Florida woods one morning, twelve-year-old Rob Horton is stunned to encounter a tiger — a real-life, very large tiger — pacing back and forth in a cage. What's more, on the same extraordinary day, he meets Sistine Bailey, a girl who shows her feelings as readily as Rob hides his. As they learn to trust each other, and ultimately, to be friends, Rob and Sistine prove that some things — like memories, and heartaches, and tigers — can't be locked up forever. —Candlewick Press

Nonfiction:

***Volcanoes*, Simon, Seymour**

From ancient myths to modern headlines, volcanoes are among the world's most amazing phenomena. Simon explores the subject thoroughly. Using examples like St. Helens and the volcanoes of Iceland and Hawaii, the author is able to address all aspects of his subject: the history, nature and causes of volcanoes.

Recommended Reading:

***Sees Behind Trees*, Michael Dorris**

Walnut is a nearsighted Native American boy. Because he cannot see well, he believes he cannot pass the test of manhood in his tribe. Walnut's Uncle recognizes that Walnut's other senses are highly developed, so he develops a test called "sees behind trees". Walnut will learn that he is capable of passing the test and earning his adult name, but adulthood will demand much more of him than this test.

The Birchbark House, Louise Erdrich

This novel is the story of a year in the life of a young Ojibwa girl who, over the cycle of four full seasons, comes to a deeper understanding of life, herself, and the relationship between the two. As it chronicles the year's events, the narrative thematically explores the connection between human beings and nature, the effect of whites on indigenous culture, and the necessity of confronting fear. - *BookRags*

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, John Boyne

Young Bruno lives a wealthy lifestyle in prewar Germany along with his mother, elder sister, and SS Commandant father. The family relocates to the countryside where his father is assigned to take command of a prison camp. A few days later, Bruno befriends another youth, strangely dressed in striped pajamas, named Shmuel who lives behind an electrified fence. Bruno will soon find out that he is not permitted to befriend his new friend as he is a Jew, and that the neighboring yard is actually a prison camp for Jews

Kenny and the Dragon, Tony Diterlizzi

When Kenny's father tells him of a ferocious creature, Kenny is hardly frightened. He's actually curious; he wants to meet the beast that "eats pretty maidens and burns castles to the ground." Although Kenny is just a rabbit, he's one smart rabbit, so his father allows him to befriend the kingdom's fierce dragon. It will be up to Kenny to save his new friend from the townspeople who want him slain. Kenny wonders, "How can they want someone killed they don't even know?" This is a funny book that will get you thinking.

Dear Mr. Henshaw, Beverly Cleary. Leigh Bott's sixth grade assignment is to write a report on his favorite author. For his research Leigh writes to Mr. Henshaw, and Mr. Henshaw actually writes back! Through their correspondence the reader learns that Leigh is struggling with being the new kid in town, adapting to his parents' recent divorce and being just medium.

A Week in the Woods, Andrew Clements. Eleven year old Mark moves to a small town in New Hampshire and is quickly labeled the spoiled rich kid by classmates and teachers--Mark ignores them because he will not be attending the school for long. He spends his free time exploring the desolate New Hampshire country side. Mark reluctantly decides to attend a school camping trip supervised by his nemesis Mr. Maxwell. The trip becomes a test of wills as Mr. Maxwell and Mark try to survive *A Week in the Woods*.

Room One: A Mystery or Two, Andrew Clements. *Room One* is another school favorite by Andrew Clements. In this story, Clements combines his typical, true-to-life humor with a serious, intriguing mystery--the best of both worlds. When Ted, a sixth grade boy from a small Nebraska town, sees a girl's face in the window of an old, abandoned farmhouse, he decides to investigate. He finds a girl named April, her mother and her younger brother hiding out in the house. Even stranger: the family believes that someone is following them. Ted agrees to bring them food and necessities until they are able to

leave the town, but should he keep April and her family a secret?

Non-Fiction:

Discovering Mars: The Amazing Story of the Red Planet, Melvin Berger

Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms, Patricia Lauber

We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, Kadir Nelson

Any non-fiction book by Seymour Simon