

Saints Peter and Paul

Summer Reading Program

Entering Seventh Grade

Directions: Students are required to read 2 books for summer reading. All students must read *Things Not Seen* and *A Long Walk to Water*. Students will complete a written assignment in September for both books.

Required Reading:

Things Not Seen, Andrew Clements

Imagine one day you get up for school, face the mirror and find no reflection. *You* have disappeared. Yet, "you are thinking feeling and speaking". Your parents confine you to your house, hoping they can fix the problem before the media or the government gets to you, so you must be officially declared missing. Bobby is in this exact predicament. Feeling terribly lonely, he leaves his home and heads for the library where he meets the one person who might remain unaware of his condition--a blind girl named Alicia. Will Bobby ever reclaim his reflection? A cool story full of symbolism and suspense, *Things Not Seen* will get you reading and leave you thinking.

A Long Walk to Water, Linda Sue Park

In 1985, 11 year old Salva's small village in Sudan is attacked by rebel soldiers while he is in school, and the teacher frantically tells the children to run away. Salva must leave his family and begin the long walk to safety in a refugee camp in Ethiopia, but the camp provides little protection to the thousands of child refugees. In 2008, a young Sudanese girl, Nya's spends her days searching for and collecting water for her family. Her life revolves around the hunt for water. Nya's narrative frames Salva's journey from Sudan to Ethiopia to Rochester, NY, and, eventually, back to Sudan, but how will their stories intersect? This short novel based on a true story will amaze and inspire you.

Suggested Reading: Here are a few of my favorites...

King of Ithaka, Tracy Barrett

Odysseus has been gone for nearly all of his son's life. Despite being a prince, Telemachos has grown up with few responsibilities, until the day his neighbors declare that his father must be dead, and his mother must marry one of them so that there would be a king. In response, Telemachos, who has never left the kingdom, says he will travel the world to search for word of his father. Accompanied by Brax, a centaur, and runaway weaver Polydora, the teen discovers that the world is full of dangers, some of them giving the appearance of friendship.

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life, Wendy Mass

The summer he turns 13, Jeremy receives a mysterious box with the engraved words "the meaning of life: for Jeremy Fink on his thirteenth birthday." The box was left by his father, who has been dead for five years. It has four locks, but Jeremy finds no keys to open them. As Jeremy and his best friend, Lizzy, embark on a quest to find the keys, they travel across Manhattan from flea markets to fancy office buildings and museums, searching, as it turns out, not only for keys but also insights into science, religion, art, friendship, and family. The overlong plot lurches from one contrivance to another, and the end is a total setup, but readers will be hooked by the kids' fast, funny urban adventure, as well as by the quest and the "existential crisis." *Booklist*

***The Lorien Legacies Series*, Pittacus Lore**

You got a taste of Lore's storytelling in Library class this year with *I am Number Four*. Will John Smith survive? What about the other Loric children? Finish *I am Number Four* and dive into the rest of this thoroughly engaging Sci-fi series.

***Liar and Spy*, Rebecca Stead**

From the author of *When You Reach Me* comes another interesting mystery. Seventh grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-described spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. Together they track the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: what is a lie, and what is a game. How far is too far to go for your only friend?

***Chains*, Laurie Halse Anderson**

Isabel is a young slave living in 1776. She and her little sister, Ruth, live in Rhode Island and Isabel dreams of the day they will be free. Their master, Miss Finch, has promised them freedom upon her death, but when the time comes her lawyer has fled the sporadic battles between the Loyalists and Patriots. Miss Finch's greedy young nephew quickly sells the girls off to a wealthy Loyalist and his cruel wife. The girls' only chance at freedom is to serve as spies for the loyalists. They are "chained between two nations." This is an intriguing, suspenseful novel that will keep you reading right to its exciting conclusion. **If you've read chains, try *Fever 1793* also by Anderson**

***Journal of Scott Penleton Collins*, Walter Dean Myers**

"Scott, like so many of the other soldiers waiting in England, is eager to be off. Though he does not have the details he knows that any time now he and his unit are going to get on a boat which will carry them across the English Channel to begin the invasion of Europe - to begin the fight to take back the countries Germany took over. Like so many young men going to war Scott has very little sense of what he is going to be doing in France but he doesn't care. All he wants is to be relieved of the boring waiting game they are all playing. At last, on the night of June 5th, 1944 Scott is on a boat feeling both seasick and nervous. When his boat finally approaches the beach in Normandy, France, he soon sees that the task ahead of him is a horrific one. How is he going to get to the beach head without being killed as so many others have been?" *Through the Looking Glass Children's Book Review* If you are interested in World War II, try ***True Stories of D-Day, Under the Blood Red Sun, and The Story of the U.S.S. Arizona***.

***The Boy Who Dared*, Susan Campbell Bartoletti**

Based on the life of Helmuth Guddat Hubner, a member of the Hitler Youth and the title character of historical fiction novel, this story begins in a cold prison cell as Helmuth reflects on his past while waiting to learn if he has a future --- or if he will be put to death for being "an enemy of the state." When Hitler came to power, young Helmuth vows to fight for the Fatherland and eagerly joins the Hitler Youth. But when neighbors turn against neighbors, books critical of Hitler are burned, and radios linking Germans to the outside world are seized, Helmuth becomes disenchanted and vows to take action. Can one teenage boy take on the Nazis?

***Uprising*, Margaret Peterson Haddix**

This story is told from the alternating perspectives of Bella, an Italian immigrant teen; Yetta, a Russian Jewish immigrant; and Jane, the daughter of an upper-class American businessman. All three girls are affected by the cruel treatment of workers and horrible working conditions at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. They are all together at the factory on March 29th, 1911 when a spark ignites

some cloth, and the factory is engulfed in flames. This story is based on the worst work place disaster in American history.

Ship of Fire, Michael Cadnum

Thomas Spyre, a 17 year old surgeon's apprentice, is setting sail with the legendary Sir Francis Drake. Spyre swears his allegiance to the crown and embarks on a treacherous, at times gruesome, adventure. The ship's surgeon dies early in their journey, and Thomas is promoted to ship's surgeon despite his inexperience. Will he survive fighting on the open sea, bloodletting with leeches and performing his first amputation? Read to find out what life on the sea was really like.

Fever, 1793, Laurie Halse Anderson

Mattie is a 16 year old girl living in Philadelphia in 1793. She goes from being a slightly overworked teenage daughter of a proprietor of a successful coffee house, to a young woman struggling to survive in a city ravaged by the dreaded yellow fever. Neighbors turn on neighbors as the infected are coldly cast aside, dying within hours of infection. When Mattie's mother contracts yellow fever, Mattie is sent off to the country with her grandfather, only to be turned away there as well. Read how this devastating epidemic affected the once booming city of Philadelphia and the lives of those survived.