

# Saints Peter and Paul School

## Summer Reading Program

### Entering Sixth Grade

**Directions: All students must read *Tales of the Greek Heroes* by Roger Lancelyn Green (Chapters 1-7 only required) AND *Hanna's Suitcase* by Karen Levine**

#### **Required Reading:**

##### ***Tales of the Greek Heroes, Roger Lancelyn Green (Chapters 1-7 only)***

The mysterious and exciting legends of the gods and heroes in Ancient Greece, from the adventures of Perseus, the labours of Heracles, the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts, to Odysseus and the Trojan War. The book is introduced with wit and humor by Rick Riordan, creator of the highly successful Percy Jackson series.

##### ***Hanna's Suitcase, Karen Levine***

This is the fascinating story of a teacher/museum director in Japan who sets out with her class to find the story behind a child's suitcase recovered from Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp. Ms. Ishioka and her class learn that the suitcase belonged to little Hanna who once lived in a resort town in Czechoslovakia with her loving family and dog Sylva. The story of Hanna's life is terribly sad, but what the students learn from her life is inspiring and uplifting. Hanna's story needs to be read and remembered, and it all starts with her small, brown suitcase. If you are interested in more books about the Holocaust try *Stones in the Water, The Diary of Ann Frank, The Boy Who Dared*

#### **Suggested Reading:**

##### ***Absolutely Normal Chaos, Sharon Creech***

A prequel to the Newbery Medal-winning *Walk Two Moons*, this book chronicles the daily life of 13-year-old Mary Lou Finney during her most chaotic and romantic summer ever. Mary Lou's summer journal -- which she begins grudgingly as a dreaded assignment for school -- becomes a hilarious chronicle of the circle of people and events that make her summer. There is Carl Ray, the mysterious and troublesome cousin that comes to visit; Beth Ann Bartels, her best friend who's recently gone boy crazy; Alex Cheevy, the boy that makes Mary Lou's brains "mushy;" and, of course, the Finney clan, her "normally strange family." What follows is the story of a summer filled with lessons and observations on love, death, friendship, and family.

***The Metropolitans, Carol Goodman, age 10+.*** As the bombing of Pearl Harbor takes place half a world away, four 13-year-olds converge on the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Soon they're swept up in the struggle to decode a secret message and foil a Nazi plot (possibly aided by magical forces) to poison the city's population. It's a thrilling adventure full of relatable issues, appealing heroes, and deadly peril.

***Within Reach: My Everest Story, Mark Pfetzer and Jack Galvin***

This is the story of a sixteen year old boy who climbs Mount Everest. It is full of all the suspense and drama you would imagine--blinding snowstorms, 300 foot crevasses, If you've ever wondered why people take such risks or where they get the courage, you must read this book. It is inspiring and exciting all the way to the summit.

***Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos, R.L.Lafevers***

11 year old Theodosia Throckmorton lives in London and is the daughter of two museum curators. Her parents travel to Egypt to send back artifacts which Theo is sure are latent with horrid curses. But it's worse than she thought. Her mother has brought home the wretched Heart of Egypt. Legend says that should this amulet ever leave its native soil it will curse the country that takes it in and topple the kingdom itself. With World War I looming, Theo knows she must return this amulet to its native land before it falls into the wrong hands.

***Penny From Heaven, Jenny L. Holm.***

Penny Falucci, 11, lives with her widowed mother and maternal grandparents, but her father's large, Italian family is tremendously important to her, too. It frustrates her that no one talks about his death, but as the summer of 1953 progresses, Penny's Life changes forever. The secrets behind her father's death are revealed when Aunt Gina tells her about a minor incident that had horrifying consequences for him because of the restrictions placed on Italian Americans during World War II. This is a highly recommended library favorite. You may also want to try *Turtle in Paradise* by Holm.

***The Sisters Grimm Series, Michael Buckley***

In this series humans and fairy-tale creatures live together in rural New York. Sabrina and Daphne Grimm come to town to live with their grandmother after their parents' suspicious disappearance. The girls are immediately drawn into a mystery that includes giants, pixies, fairies, and witches. You too will have to unravel which characters each creature represents in this awesome adventure for girls *and* boys. There are several books in this series. Choose the next book if you've started the series.

***When You Reach Me, Rebecca Stead***

Sal and Miranda are no longer friends, and Miranda is left confused and sad. Things get worse when she starts receiving mysterious notes that predict the future. Miranda has read *A Wrinkle in Time* and wonders about one's ability to travel in time. You'll love this interesting touching mystery set in New York City in 1979. A library favorite!