

# 2018 REQUIRED SUMMER READING for students ENTERING GRADES 6-8

Parents and teachers often worry about the perils of “summer slump”. Students spend 10 weeks away from school over the summer and then come back in September seeming behind where they left off in June. Therefore, each summer we make summer reading a requirement for students moving to grades 6-8, as a way to assure these children “exercise” their brains over the summer. A study conducted at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, based on surveys and test results for 1,600 elementary school students, concluded that children who read more books over the summer scored higher on reading comprehension tests in the fall than those who did not read over the summer.



Thus, we require our St. Louise students entering grades 6-8 to do summer reading of novels. Our language arts teachers – Mrs. Patterson and Mr. Gallant - have prepared a list of novels from which the students entering their classes will choose for summer reading. The teachers have also developed written assignments to be completed after the reading. These assignments are due on the first day of grade 6-8 language arts class in September. The novel list and written assignments for each grade level follow.

Novels may be checked out of the public library or purchased by the family. If using the library, reserve early since you may need to place a hold if all the copies are checked out.

Many of the novels are available as “eBooks” that students may read online for free on a computer/iPad/Kindle Fire/etc. The following books marked with an asterisk (\*) may be found on our school library’s webpage as ebooks: St. Louise Library's Destiny Database at <https://stlouise.follettdestiny.com/cataloging/servlet/presentadvancedsearchredirectorform.do?l2m=Library%20Search&tm=TopLevelCatalog>

 Students entering **GRADE 6** are to choose **two** (2) books from the following to read over the summer:

- The Clockwork Three (Kirby) \*
- Peter and the Starcatchers (Barry) \*
- Football Genius (Green)
- Powerless (Cody)\*
- Alanna; The First Adventure (Pierce)
- Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio (Kehret)
- Zach’s Lie (Smith)

 Students entering **GRADE 7** are to read **Under a War Torn Sky** (Elliott) and also choose **one** (1) book from the following to read over the summer:

- Walk Two Moons (Creech)
- The Alchemist: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flammel (Scott)
- Heir Apparent (Vande Velde)\*
- The Mysterious Benedict Society (Stewart) \*
- Game Changers (Lupica) \*

 Students entering **GRADE 8** are to read **Peak** (Smith) and also choose **two** (2) books from the following to read over the summer:

- High Heat (Dueker) \*
- Keeper (Peet) \*
- Red Scarf Girl (Jiang)
- The Amulet of Samarkand (Stroud)
- Hope Was Here (Bauer)
- The Roar (Clayton)
- Legend (Lu)

## **GRADE 6-8 ASSIGNMENT**

### **CREATE A STORY MAP FOR EACH NOVEL**

On loose-leaf paper, using pen in your neatest handwriting, please complete the following six sections of a Story Map regarding each novel. (Do not type or use a computer.) Number the following six sections, separate them similar to paragraph-writing, and write in complete sentences. A well written story map should be about two pages in length. Don't forget your full name on the top of your loose-leaf. Create a separate Story Map for each novel you read. These are due on the first day of language arts class in September, and will be graded.

1. Title, Author, and Genre.

2. The Setting

- Include the time and place.
- Is there a special geographical location or imaginative place?

3. The Main Character

- Besides his/her name, list traits that describe his/her personality.
- Does the character have weaknesses, strengths, etc.?

4. Conflicts

- What does the main character have to overcome or battle?

5. The Plot Summary

- Summarize the major incidents in chronological order, building up to a high point.
- This summary should grow in intensity to a climax where you explain how the main character eventually had to take drastic action or missed his/her opportunity to do so.

6. The Solution

- This is where you wrap up by explaining the resolution.
- Was there a new understanding that the main character did not have at the beginning of the novel?