

Saints Peter & Paul Elementary School
Summer Reading List: 2009
Incoming Grade 7

All incoming 7th grade students must read two books over the summer. The activities for each book are as follows:

Book 1: REQUIRED BOOK

- Classic – Rawls. *Where the Red Fern Grows* (ISBN: 0553274295)
- All students will take a test on this book during the first week of school.

Book 2: CHOICE

- You will write an **in-class essay** based on the novel. Select a book or author from the approved list and take notes using the guidelines so that you are prepared to write the essay during the first week of school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Book 1 – The test will involve identification of certain characters as well as a general knowledge of the book. Specific details will be provided prior to the test. As the movie and novel are different, it is not recommended to watch the movie in place of reading the novel.

Book 2 – You should take notes on the events of this book and on the elements of fiction (see below). These notes should be legible, as they will be handed in on the day of the writing assignment. The writing assignment, *an in-school task*, will be based on these elements of fiction. You will be asked, perhaps, to identify the theme of the book in one or two sentences. You may be asked to summarize the main events of the novel, including the resolution. You should know each of the elements in reference to your chosen book. You may use your notes for the writing assignment.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF FICTION

Characterization is the method used by a writer to develop a character. The method includes (1) showing the character's appearance, (2) displaying the character's actions, (3) revealing the character's thoughts, (4) letting the character speak, and (5) getting the reactions of others.

Conflict is the struggle found in fiction. Conflict may be internal or external and is best seen in (1) man in conflict with another man, (2) man in conflict in nature, or (3) man in conflict with himself.

Plot is the structure of a story or the sequence in which the author arranges events in a story. This structure often includes the rising action, the climax, the falling action, and the resolution. The plot may have a protagonist (main character-sometimes the hero) who is opposed by an antagonist (the person causing problems for the hero-sometimes the villain), creating what is called conflict.

Point of view is the way the events of a story are conveyed to the reader; it is the "vantage point" from which the story is passed from author to the reader. The point of view can vary from work to work. Understanding the point of view used in a work is critical to understanding literature; it serves

as the instrument to relay the events of a story, and in some instances the feelings and motives of the character(s). Two commonly used points of view are 1st person (the narrator is telling the story and uses "I" and "me" when referring to himself) and 3rd person (the narrator is an outside observer telling the story to the readers).

Setting is determining the time and place in which a story takes place in fiction.

Theme is the general idea or insight about life that a writer wishes to express. A simple theme can often be stated in a single sentence.

Approved Summer Reading Books and Authors for Students Entering Seventh Grade

Anderson- <i>Fever, 1793</i>	Lowry- <i>Messenger</i>
Balliett- <i>Chasing Vermeer</i>	<i>Gossamer</i>
<i>The Wright 3</i>	Lupica- <i>Summer Ball</i>
Blackwood- <i>The Shakespeare Stealer</i> (series)	<i>The Big Field</i>
Bauer- <i>Stand Tall</i>	MacPhail- <i>Missing</i>
Choldenko- <i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>	Martin- <i>A Corner of the Universe</i>
<i>If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period</i>	Moses- <i>Legend of Buddy Bush</i>
Curtis- <i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Nimmo- <i>Charlie Bone</i> (any in series)
<i>Bucking the Sarge</i>	Paulsen- <i>The Transall Saga</i>
<i>Elijah of Buxton</i>	<i>Guts</i>
Duprau- <i>The City of Ember</i>	Perkins- <i>Criss Cross</i>
Eckert- <i>Incident at Hawke's Hill</i>	Philbrick- <i>Revenge of the Whale</i>
Funke- <i>The Thief Lord</i>	<i>The Young Man and the Sea</i>
<i>Dragon Rider</i>	Pullman- <i>The Golden Compass</i> (trilogy)
Gaiman- <i>Coraline</i>	Sachar- <i>Small Steps</i>
<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Salisbury- <i>Lord of the Deep</i>
Hesse- <i>The Music of Dolphins</i>	Schmidt- <i>The Wednesday Wars</i>
Hiassen- <i>Hoot</i>	<i>Lizzie Bright and the</i>
<i>Flush</i>	<i>Buckminster Boy</i>
Hobbs- <i>Far North</i>	Selznick- <i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i>
Hoobler- <i>The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn</i>	Spinelli- <i>Stargirl</i>
Jacques- <i>Redwall</i> (series)	<i>Love, Stargirl</i>
Levine- <i>Dave at Night</i>	Stewart- <i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i>
Lowry- <i>Gathering Blue</i>	Tolan- <i>Surviving the Applewhites</i>
<i>The Wish</i>	