

Saints Peter & Paul Elementary School  
Summer Reading List: 2009  
Incoming Grade 8

All incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must read two books over the summer. The activities for each book are as follows:

**Book 1: REQUIRED BOOK**

- Classic – Forbes. *Johnny Tremain* (ISBN # 0395900115)
- 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 this novel. Choose a book from the list below and take notes using the guidelines so that you are prepared to write the essay during the first week of school

**APPROVED READING LIST:**

Alexie	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>
Allende	<i>City of the Beasts</i>
Bauer	<i>Rules of the Road</i>
Blackwood	<i>The Year of the Hangman</i>
Boyne	<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>
Chabon	<i>Summerland</i>
Craven	<i>I Heard the Owl Call My Name</i>
Duncan	<i>Killing Mr. Griffin</i>
Hess	<i>Witness</i>
Hinton	<i>Outsiders</i>
Horowitz	Any of the Alex Rider series
Killilea	<i>Karen</i>
Koontz	<i>The Watchers</i>
Koss	<i>The Cheat</i>
LeGuin	<i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i>
Levine	<i>Ella Enchanted</i>
Levitin	<i>A Life of Discovery</i>
Martel	<i>Life of Pi</i>
Martin	<i>Here Today</i>
Matas	<i>After the War</i>
Mowat	<i>Never Cry Wolf</i>
Nixon	<i>Séance</i> or <i>Whispers from the Dead</i>
Paulsen	<i>Soldiers Heart</i> or <i>Dogsong</i> or <i>Sarny: A Life Remembered</i>
Peck	<i>Day No Pigs Would Die</i>
Scott Card	Any of the <i>Ender's Game</i> series
Voigt	<i>The Callender Papers</i>
Yolen	<i>Devil's Arithmetic</i>
Zindel	<i>Pigman</i>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Book 1 – *Johnny Tremain*** – 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 on the day of 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; (3) man in conflict with self.

**Plot** is the structure of a story or the sequenc 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 a way the events of a story are conveyed to the reader; it is the “vantage point” from which the narrative 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).

**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.