

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Holy Spirit School Summer Reading List Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Please choose one of the fictional novels below and complete the attached summer reading assignment. You may retype this or use additional paper if needed. Remember, this work is to be done individually. Enjoy reading!**

### **Fiction**

*Little Women* / Louisa May Alcott

*Little Women* is the heartwarming story of the March family that has thrilled generations of readers. It is the story of four sisters--Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth--and of the courage, humor and ingenuity they display to survive poverty and the absence of their father during the Civil War.

*Red Sky at Morning* / Richard Bradford

This is a classic coming of age story set during WWII about the enduring spirit of youth and values in life that count.

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* / Betty Smith

A 1943 novel written by Betty Smith focuses on Francie Nolan, an impoverished but aspirational third-generation-American adolescent girl and her ethnically-blended family in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York City during the first two decades of the 20th century.

*A Fish in a Tree* / Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Lynda Mullaly Hunt offers readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they did not fit in.

**Next, you must either choose one of the following historical fiction, nonfiction or biographies listed below. Upon your return to school, you will be required to give an oral presentation on the novel you chose. DO NOT complete the attached summer reading assignment for this portion. The rubric for the oral presentation is also attached.**

### **Non Fiction and Biography**

*Kids on Strike!* / Susan Campbell Bartoletti

This book describes the conditions and treatment that drive workers, including many children, to various strikes, from the mill workers strikes in 1828 and 1836 and the coal strikes at the turn of the century to the work of Mother Jones on behalf of child workers.

## **Non Fiction and Biography Continued**

*Kaffir Boy* / Mark Mathabane

The author recalls his personal experiences growing up under South African Apartheid during the 1970s, the poverty and oppression of living in the ghettos of Alexandra, and of those who helped him escape from it.

## **Historical Fiction**

*Bull Run* / Paul Fleischmann

Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* / Elizabeth George Speare

Historical fiction that takes place in Puritan New England in 1687. A clash of cultures occurs as Kit, raised in Barbados, moves to Puritan New England to stay with her aunt and uncle. She befriends a woman accused of witchcraft and finds herself in disgrace with the town's people. Several of the characters are historical figures from that era.

*Across Five Aprils* / Irene Hunt

This is one of the most popular Civil War stories for children. The main character's family is divided between the Union and the Confederacy. Trouble occurs with their family and with the residents of the area. The effect of on-going struggle through the years of the Civil War demonstrates the far-reaching impact the national conflict had on individual families.

*Adam of the Road* / Elizabeth Janet Gray

This story is set in England in the 1290's. Adam is a traveling minstrel who encounters various adventures on his journey. Medieval life is reflected, as well as the significance of the signing of the Magna Charta and the beginning of the House of Commons to the common people.

*Kidnapped* / By Robert Louis Stevenson

Here is a novel which takes place in Scotland at the same time as the American Revolutionary War. The fictitious hero, David Balfour, finds himself unwittingly in an ancient conflict between the Highlanders and Lowlanders.

*A Break with Charity* / Rinaldi

In a novel focusing on the Salem witch trials, Susanna desperately wants to join the circle of girls who meet every week at the parsonage. What she doesn't realize is that the girls are about to set off a torrent of false accusations leading to the imprisonment and execution of countless innocent people.

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## Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

1. **TITLE** - (underlined if handwritten/italicized if typed): \_\_\_\_\_

2. **AUTHOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GENRE:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **PLOT**- First think of the problem, then summarize the plot of the story using the following plot elements:

**Exposition** (background information- introduces the characters who are involved in the major problem)

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**Rising Action/Conflict** (describes the events involving the characters listed above that lead to the problem and the problem in general)

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**Climax** (this is the point where the problem is solved through action, through knowledge etc.; the answer...)

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**Falling Action/ Resolution** (the events that occur after the main problem is solved; how it ends)

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4. **CHARACTERIZATION** – Create a chart for one character. Include the internal and external traits in a T- chart as we do in class, or list them in bullets.

5. **SETTING/MOOD**- Describe the setting in two ways. First describe the physical setting (where, when, what time etc.) and then describe the overall feeling or mood of the setting for the book.

Physical setting:

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Overall feeling (mood) gathered from the setting:

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6. **THEME** – Describe one or more of the themes using details from the story to support your decision.

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7. **REACTION** – Describe what you enjoyed about the book and what you may not have liked. Explain!

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**Oral Presentation Rubric**  
**Historical Fiction, Non Fiction or Biography**

**Students will be required to give a 3-4 minute presentation where they must discuss the following aspects:**

1. Describe the main character in as much detail as you can
2. Discuss the main conflict/problem the character faces – only discuss background information if it is needed to clarify the problem
3. How is the conflict resolved?
4. Provide a personal reaction (thoughts, feelings, how you can relate, inferences etc.)

**You will be graded on your completion of the requirements above as well as the following aspects of public speaking:**

1. **Preparation** – knowing your topic/following the requirements
2. **Effective visual aids** – neat, easy to read and see, just the pointers, pictures are welcome (this may be a power point, word doc or poster)
3. **Word choice** – NO FILLERS um, uh, ok, you know, so, well, like / repetitive words
4. **Eye contact** – focus on foreheads, a friend etc. – DO NOT READ OFF YOUR AID
5. **Sounds** – clear and audible voice, no distracting sounds
6. **Posture** – no rocking and rolling and swaying
7. **Proper time** (3 - 4 minutes)