



Dear parents of rising 7th graders,

Reading carries with it an importance that will last a lifetime. It fosters a growing vocabulary, builds empathy, and strengthens cognitive ability. Over the summer, your child will be required to read two books and complete assignments that go along with these stories. You will find the books and their assignments attached to this letter.

Also attached is a list of suggested reading materials that students can use for their own personal summer reading lists. This is not required reading, but rather a stepping stone students can use to explore their own genre interests. Students should track their reading in the reading log at the end of this packet, which will be returned at the beginning of the new school year if filled out.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you so much and have a safe, blessed, and happy summer. See you all in August, and happy reading!

Mrs. Alexis Greshock

Middle School Literature/Language Arts

Saint Ambrose Catholic School

Rising 7th Grade Summer Reading

Mrs. Greshock

7th Grade summer reading required books: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck and *When my Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park.

***The Pearl* Project:**

The Pearl by John Steinbeck shows how greed and ambition can destroy our innocence. Like Macbeth, we see Kino transform from a content family man to a violent criminal before our very eyes. Fate and free will both take their parts in this story, and once again, we are left with tragedy because of it.

Assignment:

Create a music playlist (creating the *actual* playlist is optional!) that would capture the mood of Kino's Song of the Family, Song the of Undersea, Song the Pearl that Might Be, Song of Evil and Song of the Enemy.

- Playlist must be typed or written neatly. It may be burned onto a CD or have a real playlist made on Spotify or another site (this is optional!)
- Each selection must be appropriate.
- For each song, write a small paragraph (3-4 sentences) on why you chose this song.

***When my Name Was Keoko* Project:**

In the story *When my Name Was Keoko*, Sue Park takes us on a journey with a brother and sister who are forced to assimilate themselves in a new Japanese culture, leaving their Korean background behind. What if you were forced to learn a new language, new history and make a new life all while having to forget about your old one? Could you do it? How would you feel?

Assignment:

Write a 1-page inner monologue answering those questions about having to go through what Tae-yul and Sun-hee had to.

- Must be in first-person point of view.
- Preferred to be typed, but may be handwritten neatly.
- The country that is invading could be of your choosing.
- Make a new name for yourself that is of that country's origin.
- Tone must be serious.

Extra Reading!

Don't stop there! Record the titles of the books you read Summer Reading Log attached! Continue to challenge yourself to read more books in different genres.

To earn a **dress down day pass**, read/record a total of 5 books... Enjoy!

Here are some suggested titles, but feel free to read your own books as well!

American History – Nonfiction:

- *10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War* by Philip Caputo
- *The Day Lincoln was Shot* by Greg Bishop
- *The Great Fire* by Jim Murphy (Chicago's Great Fire of 1871)
- *The Twentieth Maine* by John Pullen
- *Code Talked: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac

Biographies:

- *Amos Fortune, Free Man* by Elizabeth Yates
- *Lincoln: A Photobiography* by Russell Freedman
- *The Story of my Life* by Helen Keller

American Classics:

- *Little Women* by Lousia May Alcott
- *Souder* by William Armstrong
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Heminway
- *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austin

Historical Fiction:

- *Jacob I Have Loved* by Katherine Paterson
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* by Mildred Taylor
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by George Speare
- *The Gadget* by Paul Zindel
- *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

Fantasy:

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Percy Jackson Series* by Rick Riordan
- The remaining books in *The City of Ember Series* by Jeanne Duprau

Summer Reading– Extra Reading Log

Book Title	Book Author
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

****Please continue the list below if you read more than five books! 😊****