



Dear parents of rising 8th 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 8th Grade Summer Reading

Mrs. Greshock

8th grade required summer reading books: *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles and *Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle.

***A Separate Peace* Project:**

Set during Wartime, *A Separate Peace* focuses on the struggles of not only surviving the front of war, but surviving the battles we all fight within ourselves. Conflict rages through the story and is shown through both internal conflict and external conflict. On the computer, create a chart like the one shown below and explain the internal (man vs. himself) and external (man vs. man or man vs. society) conflicts for the characters Gene and Finny.

Gene – Internal Conflict	Gene – External Conflict	Finny – Internal Conflict	Finny – External Conflict
Conflict: Gene vs. ____	Conflict: Gene vs. ____	Conflict: Finny vs. ____	Conflict: Finny vs. ____
Chapter(s) conflict is found:	Chapter(s) conflict is found:	Chapter(s) conflict is found:	Chapter(s) conflict is found:
Explanation of conflict:	Explanation of conflict:	Explanation of conflict:	Explanation of conflict:
Quotes (at least 2) that explain/show the conflict (can be dialogue or narration):	Quotes (at least 2) that explain/show the conflict (can be dialogue or narration):	Quotes (at least 2) that explain/show the conflict (can be dialogue or narration):	Quotes (at least 2) that explain/show the conflict (can be dialogue or narration):

Hound of the Baskervilles Project:

The *Hound of the Baskervilles* is a classic Sherlock Holmes mystery that has the famous Baker Street detective and his partner John Watson solving more than just your typical crime. Trying to discover what's real to what's lore, Holmes and Watson dive into a mystery that just might leave the dynamic duo without an answer.

Assignment: Pick **one** quote from the list below and analyze it. What is the character trying to say? How does this show the character's personality? What about their relationships, conflicts and behaviors? Explain why this quote is important to not only the character, but to the plot of the story as well.

2 paragraph minimum

Name and title required

Font: 12 point/Times New Roman

Double spaced

Quotes: Pick ONE from the three.

1 -- *"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by any chance ever observes" – Holmes to Watson, Ch. 3 (p. 37)*

2 -- *He burst into one of his rare fits of laughter... I have not heard him laugh often, and it has always boded ill to somebody. – Watson about Holmes, Ch. 13 (p. 156)*

3 -- *"To that Providence, my sons, I hereby commend you, and I counsel you by way of caution to forbear from crossing the moor in those dark hours when the powers of evil are exalted."*(p.17, read by Dr. Mortimer from a manuscript by Hugo Baskerville).

Extra Reading!

Don't stop there! Record the titles of the books in the 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

Fantasy:

- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Percy Jackson Series* by Rick Riordan

Summer Reading Log – Extra Reading

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

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