

May 12, 2008

Dear Students and Parents,

The continuation of high quality reading during the summer break is very important for academic progress and development. The following pages contain:

- the instructions for the summer reading program,
- the confirmation of completion page which is due on the first day of school signed by both student and parent/guardian,
- helpful book report pages,
- and the complete lists of required and supplementary reading.

Grade six has a different reading list from the seventh and eighth, so please make sure to select from the correct list and follow the instructions for that grade level. The reading list is also posted in full on the school's web site should this copy be misplaced.

The reading list selections were chosen after careful review by the English department and administration. They reflect an age appropriate and academically sound grouping for independent summer reading. The selections have been coordinated with our curriculum plan for the upcoming school year. In keeping with the school's mission of academic excellence and growth in faith, a book of the Bible selected by our Christian Education department, has been included in the required reading for each grade.

Best wishes for a great summer break with time for unhurried reading and recreation. The school year begins August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Paul Foltz  
Middle School Principal

# Mount Pisgah Middle School

## Summer Reading Program

### 2008

#### Dear Student:

Please read the following very carefully so that you can make the most of your summer reading project.

#### Purpose of Your Summer Reading Program

The goal of your Summer Reading Program is to introduce you to age-appropriate reading material and to develop good reading habits by finding pleasure in what you read. Some of the books on these lists will take you on an adventure, others will take you back in time, and still others may touch your heart in a way you never expected. It is our hope that through these stories, you will develop a lifelong interest in quality reading. Likewise the selected books of the Bible will engage your thoughts, heart and spirit through God's word and the roots of our beliefs.

#### Suggestions

We suggest that you read your supplemental book first and your required book toward the end of the summer break. Highlighting important information, making lists of characters, summarizing, and taking notes are all helpful ways to prepare for your assessment of the required novel that will take place at the end of the 2nd week of school in August. In this packet, we have included a form of requirements for each book. You **WILL BE** required to return this form.

#### Summer Reading Program Instructions

1. Each student must read the required novel and book(s) of the Bible for the grade level as well as one book from the supplemental list for middle school discussion groups. Each middle school teacher is sponsoring a book and leading a book discussion group during the first week of school.
2. There will be a test on the required novel at the end of the 2nd week of school. Please realize this very important responsibility. It is important to be prepared, because this test grade will be your first grade of the year for your English class. **NOTE: If you have already read one of the required books, please read it again. Many times you will find new understanding and meaning upon the second reading of a great book!**
3. A report activity must be completed for EACH of the books that you read. You will use the report for the supplemental book for a book discussion group during the first week of school.
4. The Summer Reading Program Form must be signed by you AND a parent/guardian and turned in on the first day of school.

*Enjoy your summer reading!*  
Your English Department Faculty

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE LIST

### Required Reading:

**Tuck Everlasting** - Natalie Babbitt

**Book of the Bible: Genesis**

### *Supplemental Reading (Choose ONE of the following):*

**Redwall, Brian Jacques** Sponsored by Katie Evans

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

**Ella Enchanted, Gail Carson Levine** Sponsored by Darla Bumgartner

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

**Because of Winn Dixie, Kate DiCamillo** Sponsored by Mary Ann Morris

India Opal Buloni and her preacher father move to tiny Naomi, Florida, where a stray dog named Winn Dixie helps her befriend a group of locals. As a result, she strengthens her relationship with her father.

**Mick Hart Was Here, Barbara Parks** Sponsored by Anna Eberhard

"I don't want to make you cry. I just want to tell you about Mick. But I thought you should know right up front that he's not here anymore. I just thought that would be fair." Phoebe, the eighth-grade narrator of Park's) heart-wrenching novel, weaves together diverting anecdotes about her endearingly eccentric brother with her reactions, and those of her parents, to his death in a bicycle accident at the age of 12.

**Holes, Louis Sachar** Sponsored by Peyton Mosher

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE LIST

### Required Reading:

7<sup>th</sup> **Where the Red Fern Grows** – Wilson Rawls

**Book of the Bible: Psalms 1-25**

8<sup>th</sup> **The Cheat** – Amy Koss

**Book of the Bible: Mark**

### *Supplemental Reading (Choose ONE of the following):*

**Flight #116 Is Down**, Caroline B. Cooney Sponsored by Cindy Dixon

Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.

**Jurassic Park**, Michael Crichton Sponsored by Ashley McNair

An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Creatures once extinct now roam Jurassic Park, soon-to-be opened as a theme park. However, something goes wrong.

**Across Five Aprils**, Irene Hunt Sponsored by Bob Denhem

This heart warming is set in southern Illinois where Jethro Creighton, an intelligent, hardworking boy, is growing into manhood as his brothers and a beloved teacher leave to fight in the Union and Confederate armies.

**Little Women**, Louisa May Alcott Sponsored by Susan Reilly

The March sisters live and grow in post-Civil War America. This is the story of their growing maturity and wisdom and the search for the contentedness of family life.

**Light in the Forest**, Conrad Richter Sponsored by Brook Barnes

When he was just four years old, John Cameron Butler was captured by the Lenne Lenape Indians. He has since been adopted by the Indians, who named him True Son, and has grown to love the only family he has ever known, as well as the ways of his people. But now it's 1765 and in order to make a land deal, the Lenne Lenape and other tribes have agreed to return all their captives to the white Army, including now-15-year-old True Son/John. When he arrives at the Butler home in Paxton, Pa., True Son chafes at his white family's speech, customs and clothing, acting defiant and depressed.

**The Black Stallion**, Walter Farley Sponsored by Jody Johnson

Alec Ramsey is the sole survivor of a devastating shipwreck. Trapped on a deserted island, Alec finds his only companion is a horse, beautiful, savage and unbroken.

**Tangerine**, Harold Bloor Sponsored by Trey Arnette

Paul Fisher's older brother is a high school football star, but to Paul he's no hero. Paul's own game is soccer, which he plays even though he has to wear thick glasses because of a mysterious eye injury. When the Fishers move to Tangerine, Florida, Paul tries to make sense of things. But it's not easy, strange things happen here all the time.

**Crash**, Jerry Spinneli Sponsored by Chuck Conner

Ever since first grade "Crash" Coogan has been tormenting dweeby Penn Ward, a skinny vegetarian Quaker boy who lives in a tiny former garage with his aged parents. Now that they're in seventh grade, "chippy chirpy perky" Penn becomes an even better target: not only does Penn still wear outdated used clothes, he joins the cheerleading squad. But even though Crash becomes the school's star football player and wears the most expensive togs from the mall, he still can't get what Penn has, his parents' attention and the admiration of the most gorgeous girl in school.

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**The Life of Pi, Yann Patel Sponsored by Charles Junn**

The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions the way a dog attracts fleas." Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

**A Walk to Remember, Nicholas Sparks Sponsored by Rachel Diaz**

Landon Carter thought the last person he'd fall for was Jamie, the shy daughter of the town's minister...Jamie, who was destined to show him the depths of the human heart – and the joy and pain of living.

**All the Good in Sports, Mike Sandrolini Sponsored by Doug Dixon**

Stories about athletes and coaches usually focus on their championships or their scandals. All the Good in Sports features 20 contemporary sports personalities who go beyond the headlines to candidly share how their relationship with Christ has helped them cope with a variety of difficulties, both professional and personal, and how in Christ they found victory in their personal lives.

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**Mount Pisgah Middle School  
Summer Reading Program  
Reading Record and Verification**

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Novel:**

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

(Test on this at end of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school)

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Completed with Report** \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Bible Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date completed with Report** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Book**

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Completed with Report** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MUST BE RETURNED THE FIRST MONDAY OF SCHOOL YEAR, AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**

# Summer Reading Program

## Book Report for Bible

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book of the Bible: \_\_\_\_\_

Setting

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pertinence** - What story, passage, Psalm or parable from this book is most pertinent to *your* life right now? Please explain why.

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**Relevance** - What message from your reading do you think is **most relevant** to Christian Middle School students in the world today?

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**Mount Pisgah Middle School  
Summer Reading Program  
Book Report for Supplemental Book**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Setting**

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. - List 10 words that describe the main character. (i.e. stubborn, kind, determined, etc.)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. - List 5 words that describe objects, places, and people of importance in the novel.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. - List 5 words that describe ideas, values, or beliefs important in the novel.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mount Pisgah Middle School  
Summer Reading Program  
Book Report for Required Book**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Setting**

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conflict** - What was the problem that had to be solved in the story?

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**Plot** - List six important events from the story in the order that they happened.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Climax** - What was the high point or most exciting event in the story?

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**Theme** - What is the moral or big life message we should learn from this story?

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