



ST. MARY ACADEMY - BAY VIEW

Middle School 2020 Summer Reading Requirements

Each student is required to complete two assignments this summer: the all-middle-school read and a grade-specific assignment as described below.

Grade 6 Required Reading

As a school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary Academy - Bay View focuses on educating young women to take their place as global citizens in the twenty-first century. Attention to contemporary issues aligned with Mercy core values is key to an education that will bring about social consciousness, as asserted in the Academy's mission statement. Studies have shown that there is a strong correlation between women being educated and improvements within society. Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, was highly aware of this connection when she said, "Nothing is more productive to the good of society than the education of young women."

This summer's all-middle-school reading focuses on celebrating the achievements of women. The English Department has taken great pains in selecting both nonfiction and fiction readings on this subject. Each selection focuses on the obstacles women face in their path to success as well as their determination, courage, and persistence in reaching their goals and maintaining their integrity. Our hope is that by completing this summer reading, students will be prepared to discuss the challenges women face as well as the character traits these women model in their struggles. This summer's work will also prepare them to be "socially conscious young women" who will work to improve the quality of life for all living beings upon the Earth.

Choose one of the following titles for your *required* middle school summer reading and complete the writing assignment.

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More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. Through their work, the "code girls" helped save countless lives and were vital in ending the war. But due to the top secret nature of their accomplishments, these women have never been able to talk about their story--until now. Through dazzling research and countless interviews with the surviving code girls, Liza Mundy brings their story to life with zeal, grace, and passion.

Outrun the Moon by Stacey Lee

San Francisco, 1906: Fifteen-year-old Mercy Wong is determined to break from the poverty of Chinatown, and an education at St. Clare's School for Girls is her best hope. Although St. Clare's is off-limits to all but the wealthiest white girls, Mercy gains admittance through a mix of cunning and a little bribery, only to discover that getting in was the easiest part. Not to be undone by a bunch of spoiled heiresses, Mercy stands strong—until disaster strikes. On April 18, a historic earthquake rocks San Francisco, destroying Mercy's home and school. Now she's forced to wait with her classmates for their families in a temporary park encampment. Though fires might rage, and the city may be in shambles, Mercy can't sit by while they wait for the army to bring help—she still has the “bossy” cheeks that mark her as someone who gets things done. But what can one teenage girl do to heal so many suffering in her broken city?

Assignment: Personal Reflection Essay: Due the first day your English class meets.

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Format to use to complete this assignment:

Your essay should be typed, using 12-point Times New Roman font and double-spaced. No cover page. Put your name, the course title (for example, English 9), your teacher's name, and the date in the upper-left corner of the page. Use the title and author of the novel as the title of your essay and center it. Minimum length: 2 – 2.5 pages.

Part Two: Self-Selected Reading

Choose **one book** from the following list and complete the summer reading notes below.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Shortly after sixth-grader Miranda and her best friend Sal part ways, for some inexplicable reason her once familiar world turns upside down. Maybe it's because she's caught up in reading *A Wrinkle in Time* and trying to understand time travel, or perhaps it's because she's been receiving mysterious notes which accurately predict the future. Rebecca Stead's poignant novel, *When You Reach Me*, captures the interior monologue and observations of kids who are starting to recognize and negotiate the complexities of friendship and family, class and identity.

Blended by Sharon Draper

Every week, Isabella has to change gears. She alternates between her white mom and her black dad, who have completely dissimilar lifestyles. Isabella loves both her families, but going back and forth often makes her feel like she has two lives. Her struggle to figure out who she is becomes even harder as the reality of racism hits close to home. An attack on her best friend, who is black, rocks Isabella's school and further confuses her search for identity. Though Isabella's mixed race and struggle to find identity in a world where racism exists are strong components of this book, it is primarily about a child of divorce finding her place in two different families. This is not a criticism; in fact, it makes this an honest and relatable story for a wide range of children. Readers will enjoy the short chapters and Isabella's questioning, conversational tone.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence. This novel tells the bystander story of the Holocaust from the viewpoint of an innocent nine-year-old boy.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

This is a story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins. Year after year, she watched one season pass into another and waited for a ship to take her away. But while she waited, she kept herself alive by building shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs. Here is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.

Project Mulberry by Linda Sue Park

While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia Song, a Korean-American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more.

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed

Twelve-year-old Amal is pressed into indentured servitude when she talks back to the wealthy and powerful landlord of her rural Pakistani village.

The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

In India, 11-year-old Viji and her 12-year-old sister, Rukku, run away to Chennai after their violent father strikes out at them. Unprepared for living on the streets, they befriend two homeless boys: Arul, who lost his family in a tsunami, and Muthu, who escaped from a so-called school where he was confined and forced to work. Together they pick through garbage dumps for glass and metal scraps to sell, sleep on an abandoned bridge, and form their own family. Rukku's intellectual disability has made her dependent on Viji, who gradually learns that her sister is more capable than she had thought. When Rukku and Muthu fall ill, Viji makes tough decisions in hopes of saving their lives and later must cope with her grief before she can move on. The four children and their tight-knit relationship are portrayed with conviction and finesse. Written in the form of a letter from Viji to her sister, the affecting narrative transports readers to a

faraway setting that becomes vivid and real. Although the young characters face unusually difficult challenges, they nevertheless find the courage they need to move forward.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and her Monster by Jonathan Auxier

Victorian London is often magically made over in novels, and Auxier (*The Night Gardener*, 2014) uses Jewish folklore as kindling for his wondrous, yet at times grim, story of Nan Sparrow, one of London's cadre of child chimney sweeps. Nearly 12, she works for the heartless Wilkie Crudd, who is nothing like the fatherly Sweep, who taught Nan to climb a chimney better than any boy. Though the Sweep disappeared five years ago, she still dreams of him and keeps the warm lump of charcoal he left behind in her pocket. On a routine job, Nan gets stuck in a flue and is saved by the Sweep's coal, which reveals itself to be a golem. Nan lets Crudd believe she died and hides with the golem, Charlie, in an abandoned house. At first, the freedom is blissful, but as Charlie grows larger, Nan becomes concerned about keeping him safe—though Nan is the one who needs protecting. Auxier wipes away the grime from a bleak chapter in history where children were forced to work dangerous jobs that claimed many lives. He questions what makes one a monster and applauds helping others, activism, education, earthly marvels, and the possibility of magic. Nan's fiery personality will attract readers like moths, and Auxier's unusual blend of mythology and history will keep them transfixed.

Red Pyramid: The Kane Chronicles (Book One) by Rick Riordan

Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them, Set, has his sights on the Kanes. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe - a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

Go to next page for the assignment you need to complete for your choice novel.

Complete the following assignment on your chosen book. Due: the first day your English class meets.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade 6 Summer Reading Notes

Title of Book: _____

Author of Book: _____

Plot:

Choose 4 important plot events from the book. Create visuals that represent what happens during each of those events. Write a caption or explanation for each.

Caption:	Caption:

Caption:	Caption:

Setting:

What is the setting of the story? Remember to include both time and place in your response.

Character:

Name two main characters in the story. Write a word that describes the character (a trait) and provide an example of that character trait from the book, along with the page number that the quotation is located on.

<u>Character Name</u>	<u>Trait</u>	<u>Quotation with page #</u>
1.		
2.		

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Theme:

What is the underlying message or theme of the book? What did the author want us to learn after reading this book?



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Part Two: Self-Selected Reading

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Heist Society by Ally Carter

A group of teenagers uses its combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector.

A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

13-year-old Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift in this coming-of-age novel.

The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman

New York high school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository," and when she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.

I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

I Capture the Castle is a novel that takes the form of a collection of journals kept by seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain. Set in the 1930's, Cassandra and her family live in an abandoned castle in the English countryside. They are poor and have barely met ends for several years. But when two young men, Simon and Neil Cotton, appear in their lives, their fortunes take a turn for the better, and everyone at the castle starts to change. *I Capture the Castle* touches on the importance of family, forgiveness, and how life can't always be planned out. The conclusion will leave you satisfied with the way that Cassandra accepts whatever happens next.

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata

In this book, there is bad luck, good luck, and making your own luck—which is exactly what Summer must do to save her family. Summer knows that *kouun* means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan—right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother, Jaz, are left in the care of their grandparents, who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills., Summer has to figure out how to change the luck herself, even if it means further displeasing her grandmother, because it might be the only way to save her family.

The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet by Erin Dionne

All Hamlet Kennedy wants is to be a normal eighth grader. But with parents like hers - Shakespearean scholars who actually dress in Elizabethan regalia . . . in public! - it's not that easy. As if they weren't strange enough, her genius seven-year-old sister will be attending her middle school, and is named the new math tutor. Then, when the Shakespeare Project is announced, Hamlet reveals herself to be an amazing actress. Even though she wants to be average, Hamlet can no longer hide from the fact that she-like her family - is anything but ordinary.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules: In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensely strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measures. When life intervenes in the form of a hot new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. An accomplished author and poet, Alexander eloquently mashes up concrete poetry, hip-hop, a love of jazz, and a thriving family bond. The effect is poetry in motion. It is a rare verse novel that is fundamentally poetic rather than using this writing trend as a device. There is also a quirky vocabulary element that adds

a fun intellectual note to the narrative. This may be just the right book for those hard-to-match youth who live for sports or music or both.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Fifth-grader Melody has cerebral palsy, a condition that affects her body but not her mind. Although she is unable to walk, talk, or feed or care for herself, she can read, think, and feel. A brilliant person is trapped inside her body, determined to make her mark in the world in spite of her physical limitations. Draper knows of what she writes; her daughter, Wendy, has cerebral palsy, too. And although Melody is not Wendy, the authenticity of the story is obvious. Told in Melody's voice, this highly readable, compelling novel quickly establishes her determination and intelligence and the almost insurmountable challenges she faces. It also reveals her parents' and caretakers' courage in insisting that Melody be treated as the smart, perceptive child she is, and their perceptiveness in understanding how to help her, encourage her, and discourage self-pity from others. Thoughtless teachers, cruel classmates, Melody's unattractive clothes, and bathroom issues threaten her spirit, yet the brave Melody shines through.

Strange Birds: a field guide to ruffling feathers by Ceilia Pérez

Pérez writes a well-crafted story of friendship and activism as four rising seventh-graders form a secret club that endeavors to make a local scout troop (the Floras) stop using an unethically made feathered hat in its annual pageant. Each girl brings a unique passion and perspective to the group that plays a key role in the story's development. Cat and Ofelia are Cuban American with very different family lives. Bird-obsessed Cat feels pressure to uphold the family tradition of participating in the Flora pageant, and Ofelia (an aspiring journalist) feels smothered by her overprotective parents. Meanwhile, Bahamian American Aster is bright but socially awkward, as a result of being homeschooled. When the girls take up Cat's Flora protest, issues of race and class emerge, proving particularly eye-opening to white, privileged Lane. At times these conversations feel purposeful, but there's no denying their importance. Readers will be invested in the girls' mission, while gaining perspective on how different people's experiences of a shared situation can be.

The Maze Runner (*series) by James Dashner Thomas wakes up in an elevator, remembering nothing but his own name. He emerges into a world of about 60 teen boys who have learned to survive in a completely enclosed environment, subsisting on their own agriculture and supplies from below. A new boy arrives every 30 days. The original group has been in "the glade" for two years, trying to find a way to escape through a maze that surrounds their living space. They have begun to give up hope. Then a comatose girl arrives with a strange note, and their world begins to change.

***Go to next page for the assignment you need to complete
for your choice novel.***

Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade 7 Summer Reading Notes

Title of Book: _____

Author of Book: _____

Main Character (or Subject) of the Book

--

Setting of the Story (Time and Place)

--

Main Character Description

In the space provided below, list some character traits that describe the main character. Aim for 2 personality traits and 1 physical trait. Then find examples from the book that demonstrate or describe these character traits.

<u>Main Character Traits</u>	<u>Quotation with pg. #</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	

<u>Main Character's Feelings</u> (list 2-3 different emotions that the character experiences in the book)	What causes the main character to feel this way?
1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.

A major conflict or problem the main character faced in the story was . . .

The conflict or problem was resolved when . . .

Theme: What is the underlying message or theme of the book? What did the author want us to learn after reading this book?



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Grade 8 Required Reading

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Part Two: Self-Selected Reading

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The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

It is 1939 Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her foster father, learns to read.

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life, until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art,

documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrahams

Welcome to Echo Falls, home of a thousand secrets. Ingrid is in the wrong place at the wrong time. Or at least her shoes are. And getting them back will mean getting tangled up in a murder investigation as complicated as the mysteries solved by her idol, Sherlock Holmes. With soccer practice, schoolwork, and the lead role in her town's production of *Alice in Wonderland*, Ingrid is swamped. But as things in Echo Falls keep getting more peculiar, Ingrid realizes she must solve the murder on her own, before it's too late!

What the Moon Saw by Laura Resau

Fourteen-year-old Clara Luna spends the summer with her grandparents in the tiny, remote village of Yucuyoo, Mexico, learning about her grandmother's life as a healer, her father's decision to leave home for the U.S., and her own place in the world.

The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker

When scientists reveal that the earth's rotation has been extended by 56 minutes, there is a minor panic. Twelve-year-old Julia doesn't really recognize what's happening. At first, life seems to go on as usual, until the slowdown continues, and it isn't only by an hour anymore. The days keep stretching, with no apparent return to normal. The world's governments agree to keep "clock time," forcing everyone to stick to a 24-hour schedule, despite sunrise and sunset. Rebels known as "real-timers" are ostracized and harassed. Some people become afflicted with "slowing syndrome," leaving them disoriented and prone to passing out. Studies document an increase in impulsive behavior in others, and those seemingly unaffected by the slowing find themselves making bad decisions. All of this has an impact on Julia, who sees her parents, teachers, and neighbors crumbling around her.

Olivia Twist by Lori Langdon

In this spin on *Oliver Twist*, Olivia is raised among Long street thieves until her uncle takes her into high society after a thieving episode goes wrong. But even though she is allowed to live a life of comfort, she cannot forget the London orphans and so sneaks away to offer her help.

The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys

It's 1957 and aspiring photographer Daniel Matheson is visiting Spain with his Texas oil tycoon father. Daniel is eager for the opportunity to flesh out his portfolio for a photography contest—what would be more prize-worthy than photos of daily life in notoriously secretive Spain?—but he gets repeated warnings, some quite aggressive, against looking too closely. Another thing Daniel doesn't bank on is Ana, an arrestingly beautiful maid at the Castellana Hilton, where he's staying with his parents. As their affection deepens, so, too, do their differences: Ana, daughter of executed anti-Fascists, lives a tightly constrained existence, and Daniel has unprecedented freedom in her

country and can't quite wrap his head around the danger he puts her in. Sepetys offers a captivating glimpse into Franco's Spain, a region awash in secrets and misinformation. As Sepetys slowly unspools hard truths about the era, such as the prevalence of babies stolen from poor, Republican families, the facts become increasingly impossible to ignore, both for the reader and for Daniel. The romance ultimately takes center stage, but the troubling events in the margins add terrifyingly high stakes to Daniel and Ana's relationship.

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together. Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

Not Your Sidekick by C.B. Lee

Welcome to Andover, where superpowers are common, but internships are complicated. Just ask high school nobody, Jessica Tran. Despite her heroic lineage, Jess is resigned to a life without superpowers and is merely looking to beef up her college applications when she stumbles upon the perfect (paid!) internship--only it turns out to be for the town's most heinous supervillain. On the upside, she gets to work with her longtime secret crush, Abby, whom Jess thinks may have a secret of her own. Then there's the budding attraction to her fellow intern, the mysterious "M," who never seems to be in the same place as Abby. But what starts as a fun way to spite her superhero parents takes a sudden and dangerous turn when she uncovers a plot larger than heroes and villains altogether.

City of Bones (series) by Cassandra Clare

Fifteen-year-old geek hipster Clary thought she was just a normal kid, but normal kids don't see invisible people, and normal kids' mothers don't suddenly disappear, seemingly captured by horrific monsters. But like many fantasy heroines, Clary isn't normal, and she's got all the secret parentage, dramatic revelations and amazing magic powers to prove it. Clary is a Shadowhunter, brought up as a mundane but born to fight demons. She and her mundane friend Simon fall in with a trio of Shadowhunter teens, and are soon embroiled in a quest to understand Clary's past— and incidentally save the world.

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Grade 8 Summer Reading Notes

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Author of Book: _____

Character Map

Choose one major character from the book you read.

A well-written book, whether it is a memoir or work of fiction, contains key events in the main character/person's life. Your job as a reader is to determine which events were important. The character map below can help. Consider what you know about the character and fill in the chart accordingly.

Main Character's Name:

What he/she did and said:	How he/she looked and felt:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

What others thought of him/her:

1.

2.

3.

How you feel about him/her:

1.

2.

3.

Continue to next page.



