

Upcoming 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment



It would be helpful to take notes while reading the two novels this summer!

Required Reading: *Treasure Island* by Robert Lewis Stevenson

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson tells the story of Jim, a young boy who watches over an inn in an English seaside town with his mother and his gravely ill father. A new guest at the inn, Bill, terrifies everyone at the inn with his raunchy sea songs and threats of violence. Bill falls ill and dies just as pirates descend on the inn to kill Bill and to ransack his things. Just before the pirates can burst in and find Jim and his mom, the two of them escape with a number of coins and a pouch. Jim finds out that there is a treasure map hidden in the pouch. Thus, Jim's adventure begins with pirates, kidnapping, deception, and questions of Long John Silver's trustworthiness.

Be prepared for a Socratic Seminar at the beginning of the school year using these discussion questions:

- The characters in the novel have differing degrees of morality. Which characters have higher moral standards? Which have lower moral standards? How do the differences between the two groups affect their actions? Their choices? The consequences of the two?
- What makes Stevenson's writing powerful? Select one of your favorite descriptive passages and use it to discuss Stevenson's vivid descriptions.
- How does Stevenson use foreshadowing in *Treasure Island*? Find a few examples to share with the class. What purpose does foreshadowing have? What effect does it have on the reader?

Choose one other novel:

- Be prepared to write a well-developed paragraph about the selected book.

Kon Tiki by Thor Heyerdahl

The record of an astonishing adventure—a journey of 4,300 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean by raft.

Watsons go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head south to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up.

Life with Jeeves or *Enter Jeeves* by P.G. Wodehouse

Each book is a collection of short stories about a brilliant valet is firmly in control of his rich and foppish young employer's life.

Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

Flavia De Luce is intrigued by a series of unexplainable events that occur in her town. She faces a mystery that she must solve to prove her father's innocence.

Accountability requirements will include a parent sign-off sheet to be handed out with the syllabus as well as the Socratic Seminar and writing assignment.