

**St. Louis School  
2024 Summer ELA**

**Students Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Instructions for Responding to Summer Reading:

You will read **two** (2) books: 1 is **from the list on the next few pages**, and the other is **a book about a Saint of your choosing**. (I suggest a book from the Vision Saint Book Series by Ignatius Press.)

For the written responses to questions on these two books, please respond using the following format:

\*Be sure that you have your name and a standard St. Louis School heading at the top of the page. The heading is as follows:

Student's Name  
St. Louis School

Date  
Grade

Summer Reading

- Respond thoroughly to the questions, writing a thorough paragraph (at least **five** sentences) for each response.

\*You may **TYPE your responses**, or you may **hand write** them, neatly, on looseleaf.

- Remember to proofread for proper capitalization, punctuation, spelling and grammar.

\*Please indicate the fiction book that you read - **write the title of the fiction book in the center for the *first* question.**

Happy reading!  
Your responses are due the first week\* of school.  
Enjoy your summer!

Note: Please **do not wait** until the end of summer to read and answer these questions!

### Questions to Answer for Your FICTION book:

- 1.) A **theme** is the *overall message of a book*, a universal idea/message that applies to all people (not just the characters in the story).

In your opinion, what is the theme of the book? What is the book emphasizing or suggesting to us, as readers? Explain. Be sure to include some *details/key events* from the story that relate to the theme of the book.

- 2.) On a scale of 1-10 – 1 being “I didn’t like it at all,” to 10 being “I loved it!” – **rate** the fiction book you read. *Why* did you like/dislike the book the way that you did? Be specific, mentioning characters, plot points, and/or other factors from the book that influenced your rating of it.

### Questions to Answer – Your Book About a Saint:

- 1.) What would you say were the greatest hardships or difficulties that the saint experienced? How did these hardships test his/her faith in God? Explain.
- 2.) What lesson(s) does this saint’s life teach you about how to live? What specific examples/actions from his/her life *show* this lesson(s)?

## **Fiction Choices for 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Read *one* book from the list.

1. ***Anne of Green Gables***, by L.M. Montgomery (Realistic Fiction/Classic)

When siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert decide to send word to an orphanage for a little boy to help on their land, both their lives are forever changed by an unexpected mistake--an 11-year-old girl named Anne Shirley. A young, imaginative, spunky, red-haired orphan arrives, longing for a real family, friends, and a place to call home. Through a series of lessons and adventures she soon captures the hearts of the Cuthberts and all those around her in the small town of Avonlea.

2. ***My Brother Sam Is Dead***, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier

This book takes place during the Revolutionary War in 1770's colonial America, as rebellious colonists fight the British to try gaining independence. Tim Meeker is a young boy whose older brother and father clash over whether the older boy can join the colonists and fight against the British. A fast-paced, action-filled story that also focuses on how one boy sees the differences between his father and his brother, and how he navigates the uncertainty of who is (or might be) right.

3. ***The Bridge to Terabithia***, by Katherine Paterson

The story focuses on two fifth graders, Jesse and Leslie, a boy and a girl who become friends and create an imaginary land called Terabithia. This place serves as a refuge and place of happiness for them from the stress and problems of their lives. They bond and become close, surprising as their friendship is, but will their friendship last in the midst of the outside world, and the real-life problems that neither of them can avoid?

4. ***Heat***, by Mike Lupica

*Heat* centers on a 12-year old Cuban boy, Michael whose fastball is extraordinary, but whose day-to-day struggles might overshadow his immense talent. With his older brother as his only family, Michael must not just pitch his best, but be on his toes to deal with – and hopefully, defeat - the many problems that are in his path. *Heat* is both a sports story, but also one about family, perseverance, and believing in yourself.

5.) **A Little Princess**, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*A Little Princess* tells the story of Sara Crewe, a young girl who must navigate the challenges of losing her wealth and becoming a servant while maintaining her dignity and kindness. She is placed into a new boarding school with a very strict, harsh headmaster. Will Sara be able to keep her resolve and continue to be kind, while facing unfair treatment?