

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School**  
**2020 Middle School Required Summer Reading**

**Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**All rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders must read two books this summer.**

**1. *WONDER* by R.J. Palacio**

(From Barnes and Noble) This powerful novel about a fifth grade boy born with a jarring facial deformity who insists on going to school tells us as much about his sister and classmates as it does about him. A subtle lesson on the meanings and possibilities of kindness.

**2. *THE RED PYRAMID* by Rick Riordan**

(From Wikipedia) *The Red Pyramid* is a 2010 fantasy-adventure novel based on Egyptian mythology written by Rick Riordan. It is the first novel in The Kane Chronicles series.

**Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**All rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders must read two books this summer.**

**1. *THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE* by C.S. Lewis**

(From Scholastic) This is the first installment of C.S. Lewis' renowned series, The Chronicles of Narnia. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, first published in 1950, has been enchanting the hearts and imaginations of millions for generations, with its story of four siblings who, with the help of a Lion named Aslan, must overcome their own failings to become heroes of a better world.

**2. Choose one book from the following list:**

***NIGHTJOHN* by Gary Paulsen**

Set in the 1850s, Gary Paulsen's groundbreaking novel is unlike anything else the award-winning author has written. It is a meticulously researched, historically accurate, and artistically crafted portrayal of a grim time in our nation's past, brought to light through the personal history of two unforgettable characters. Sarny, a female slave at the Waller plantation, first sees Nightjohn when he is brought there with a rope around his neck, his body covered in scars. He had escaped north to freedom, but he came back--came back to teach reading. Knowing that the penalty for reading is dismemberment, Nightjohn still returned to slavery to teach others how to read. And twelve-year-old Sarny is willing to take the risk to learn.

***SOLDIER'S HEART* by Gary Paulsen**

In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was 15. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant or what he was fighting for. But he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. The "shooting war" turned out to be the horror of combat and the wild luck of survival; how it feels to cross a field toward the enemy, waiting for fire. When he entered the service he was a boy. When he came back he was different; he was only 19, but he was a man with "soldier's heart," later known as "battle fatigue."

**Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**All rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders must read two books this summer.**

**1. *BROWN GIRL DREAMING* by Jacqueline Woodson**

(From Goodreads) Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. *Brown Girl Dreaming* won the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the 2015 Coretta Scott King Book Award and was named a 2015 Newbery Honor Book.

**2. Choose one book from the following list:**

***THE BOOK THIEF* by Markus Zusak**

(From Goodreads) 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

***THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS* by John Boyne**

(From the book jacket) "The story of *The Boy of the Striped Pajamas* is very difficult to describe. You will go on a journey with a nine-year-old called Bruno. (Though this book isn't for nine-year-olds.) And sooner or later you will arrive with Bruno at a fence. Fences like this exist all over the world. We hope you never have to encounter such a fence.

***THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC* by Jane Yolen**

Hannah is tired of hearing about the Nazis during the Holocaust, but when she opens the door to welcome the prophet Elijah at the Passover Seder, she is transported in time to 1940's Poland, where she is captured and put in a death camp. A girl named Rivka befriends her, teaching her how to fight the dehumanization of the camp and hold on to her identity.