

Dear 6th-Grade Parents and Guardians,

I am looking forward to getting to know your children this fall. Below is the list of summer reading books for students entering 7th grade at St. Peter School in September 2021. Each student is expected to read **at least three** books. Students must read at least **two** books from the following list, and may choose another book that is not on the list. Students are also highly encouraged to read for at least half an hour a day.

Students may choose two from the following selections:

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

The Skellig by David Almond

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

The Roar by Emma Clayton

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Secret Garden by Francis Hodgson Burnett

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

The Library Card by Jerry Spinelli

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Journey to the Center of the Earth by Jules Verne

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Cloud and Wallfish by Anne Nesbet

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

The Thing about Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

Heat by Mike Lupica

A World Without Fish by Mark Kurlansky

Refugee by Alan Grantz

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Kelly Barnhill

Miles Morales Spider-Man, Jason Reynolds and Kadir Nelson

Code Talkers: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two, Joseph Bruchac

Blended, Sharon Draper

George, Alex Gino

The Lions of Little Rock, Kristin Levine

The Underneath, Kathi Appelt

One Came Home, Amy Timberlake

In addition, students are expected to write a book review over the summer about one of the three books they selected. Students also need to be prepared to give an oral presentation to the class about one of the two other books that they read. Assignments are due on the first day of school. The book review and the oral presentation will be their first grades for the trimester. Guidelines and instructions are included.

Supplies List

Please send the following items with your child on the first day of school.

- 3 notebooks (grammar, writing, and literature)
- 2 folders
- Pens and pencils
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 2 containers of sanitizing wipes
- Personal hand sanitizer
- \$25 check made out to St. Peter School to order books that we will read during the year

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My email is badams@saint-peter-school.org. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer. I look forward to working with your children in the fall.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Adams

*Grade 8 Homeroom
English Language Arts and Literature, Grades 7 and 8
High School Coordinator*

Summer Book Review & Oral Presentation

from *Voyages in English Grammar and Writing*
Grade 7

Each student is expected to write a book review on one of the summer reading books from the list, and to give an oral presentation on a different book (from the list or one of his/her choice) upon returning to school. The written book review should be approximately 1-2 pages, typed, 11 font, and double-spaced.

Written Book Review

Pre-writing

1. Write down notes about the book. Make a list and include the following: author, title, type of book, setting, main characters, plot, theme, and your reaction.
2. Organize your ideas. Look at the notes and the list you created. Turn the list of information you wrote into an outline. Remember to make each idea equally important. Give your subtopics equal importance with each other as well. Make sure all your details fit the subtopic they are grouped under and that no misfit details have been added.

Example from p. 401 in *Voyages in English Grammar and Writing*

Lily's Ghosts by Laura Ruby

- I. Introduction
 - A. This book is a mystery set in Cape May, New Jersey.
 - B. It is an exciting and fun novel.
- II. Plot
 - A. Lily and her mother move in with her mother's rich uncle Wesley.
 - B. Lily discovers ghosts that live in the house.
 - C. Lily becomes friends with Vaz.
 - D. They begin to solve a mystery.
 1. They find a treasure map.
 2. Uncle Wesley finds out about the map.
 3. He kidnaps them and makes them find the treasure.
 4. Uncle Max tells Lily everything.
- III. My reaction
 - A. The story is exciting and funny.
 - B. The characters seem real, especially Lily.
 - C. I would recommend this book to anyone.

Drafting

Look at your outline and write your first draft. Be sure to include important information such as characters, setting, and plot. Include your opinion in the introduction and expand on it in the conclusion. You should have at least 3 paragraphs in your book review; you will need an introduction, at least one body paragraph, and a conclusion.

Remember that you are writing for a general audience. Be sure to summarize the plot clearly and include enough information to give readers a good idea of the book. Think of the reasons that the average reader might enjoy this book.

Plot Summary: What to include?

When you summarize the plot of your book, be sure not to include too much or too little information. You want to give the readers a good idea of what the book is about, but not so much that they find out the whole story.

A plot summary should begin by telling the characters' situation and what is happening when the book opens. This is sometimes called the setup because it sets up the conflict of the book. The summary then describes the conflict and the main events that build up to the climax.

The climax of a book is the dramatic moment that the rest of the plot builds toward. While you can hint at the climax of the story in your plot summary, don't tell how it is resolved. Leave enough out so that your audience wants to know more.

You can find plot summaries in many places. The back cover of a book or DVD box usually includes a plot summary of the book or movie. You can read book and movie reviews in newspapers and magazines. It might be helpful to look in some of these places to find examples of concise plot summaries.

Content Editing & Proofreading

Set your draft aside overnight and then look at it again the next day. Look at the content editor's checklist and the proofreader's checklist. Are there ways that you can improve your first draft? If so, make edits. Read your book review one more time to catch any mistakes. Add a catchy title. Print your paper and bring it with you on the first day of school.

Content Editor's Checklist

- Does the introduction tell the title, author, and type of book?
- Does the introduction give an idea of the reviewer's reaction to the book?
- Does the body clearly and concisely summarize the plot?
- Does the conclusion give the reviewer's reaction to the book, using reasons and examples?

- Are the setting, characters, and themes described in the review?
- Does the tone of the review fit the audience?

Proofreader's Checklist

- Are there any sentences that could be combined or expanded?
- Are there any run-on or rambling sentences?
- Are there any sentence fragments?
- Are any sentences awkward or confusing?
- Is each sentence logical and grammatically correct?
- Are any words redundant, repeated, or misused?
- Are the paragraphs indented?
- Have any words been misspelled?
- Are capitalization and punctuation correct?
- Were new errors introduced during the editing stage?

Oral Book Review

Speaking and Listening Skills

After you have finished reading one of the books on the summer reading list (or one of your choice), then prepare an oral book review. Tell what the book is about, what you liked and disliked, and whether you would recommend the book to other readers. Remember that you want to persuade your classmates to read or not read the book, so make sure your opinion comes through loud and clear.

Your review should be approximately 1-3 minutes in length. You may use notecards.

Introduction

Begin your review by stating the name of the book, the author, and the main characters. Give the listeners a general idea of what the book is about and a brief reaction to it.

Body

Briefly describe the characters and summarize the plot, giving important details. Don't give away the ending. Include a few words or sentences about the book's theme or message.

Conclusion

End your review with your evaluation of the book. Do you recommend it? Why or why not?

Voice

Let your tone of voice show your opinion of the book. Speak with enthusiasm if you really liked the book. Use a more neutral tone if you did not.

Preparing an Oral Book Review

1. Freewrite notes about the characters, setting, and plot.

2. Create an outline for your book review.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Author and title of book
 - B. What the book is about
 - C. My reaction
- II. Body
 - A. Characters and setting
 - B. Plot summary
 1. First main event
 2. Second main event
 3. Third main event
 - C. Theme of the book
- III. Conclusion
 - A. First thing I liked or didn't like
 - B. Second thing I liked or didn't like
 - C. Summary of my reaction

3. Use note cards to help you remember the important information for your review. Write your notes in words or phrases. You should not read the cards word for word. Follow these tips for your oral book review.

- Write the introductory information on your first card. Include the name of the book, the author, the characters, and the type of book it is.
- Write each main point or event on a separate card, followed by keywords that will help you remember details.
- Consider sharing some background information that will help your audience understand the characters, setting, or plot.

Practice

The more you prepare and practice, the more comfortable you will feel on the day of your oral book review.

Practice giving your review in front of a mirror or a friend or family member. As you practice, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I have an informative and interesting introduction?
- Do I summarize the plot in logical order?
- Do I speak clearly and carefully so the listener will understand?
- Do I speak with emotion or emphasis so the audience will understand my feelings?
- Does my conclusion clearly state my opinion of the book and tell whether I recommend it?
- Do I give reasons and examples to support my opinion?

Listening Tips

When you listen to someone else give an oral book review, keep the following points in mind:

- Don't interrupt. If you have questions, write them down on a piece of paper and ask them at the end of the review.
- Listen for details that support the speaker's points.
- Decide whether you would like to read the book that was reviewed.