



SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL

2016 SUMMER READING—GRADE 8

Students entering grades 5 – 8 are required to complete summer reading prior to the 2016-2017 school year start. All students will be reading two books. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the plot, characters, setting, and conflicts of the books within the first few days of school. Assessments may be given in the form of written or oral book reports, group projects, or tests.

You can purchase titles from most book stores, including Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com. All titles are also available for check out from the East Baton Rouge Parish Library system.

8th grade students will ALL read *I Am David* by Anne Holm and one choice from the 2017 Louisiana Young Reader’s Choice Award List.

8th grade REQUIRED book

I Am David by Anne Holm

After escaping from an Eastern European concentration camp where he has spent most of his life, a twelve-year-old boy struggles to cope in a strange world as he flees to freedom in Denmark.

8th grade CHOICES – from the Louisiana Young Reader’s Choice Award List

Choose ONE book from the following list to read for summer reading.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander, 420 pgs.

This is the story of a set of twins, middle school basketball stars who are coached by their dad, a former NBA player. The boys are equally talented and work well together, but when a new girlfriend begins to split them apart, feelings of anger and jealousy develop. The novel, written in verse, emphasizes brotherhood and family bonds and has an unexpected ending that will shock the reader.

The Dirt Diary (The Dirt Diary #1) by Anna Staniszewski, 256 pgs.

Desperate to replace the money she secretly took from her college fund, thirteen-year old Rachel, an aspiring baker, grudgingly goes to work for her mother’s new cleaning business, which, to her embarrassment, includes the homes of kids she goes to school with, both friend and foe, making for some very awkward situations and some unexpected surprises.

I Kill the Mockingbird by Paul Acampora, 166 pgs.

Main character Lucy has just witnessed her favorite teacher’s death and is struggling to accept her mother’s cancer remission. Needing to busy herself over the summer, she develops a plot to share her deceased teacher’s favorite summer reading selection *To Kill a Mockingbird* with as many people as possible. The story is full of tech savvy teens, humor and real life scenarios including relationships and social media.

Loot: How to Steal a Fortune by Jude Watson, 272 pgs.

March McQuinn and his father live a life most kids can only dream about, summer in Milan, winter in Spain, but there are problems too. March is often alone, waiting for his father to complete his latest heist. When the unthinkable happens, March is left with no one and ends up being taken back to America with a twin sister he has never met to live in a group home. When the twins begin to examine their father's mysterious past, they find themselves on a bigger high stakes adventure than either has experienced before.

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier, 368 pgs.

Two Irish orphans make their way to work at a dilapidated manor house that the locals avoid at all costs. They soon realize the house holds a terrible secret that could be far worse than living on the streets. The siblings must unravel the dark and terrifying mystery before it's too late to escape the reach of the Night Gardener.

The One Safe Place by Tania Unsworth, 670 pgs.

When Devin is forced to venture away from one of the few remaining safe places in a dystopian world, he is given what appears to be the chance of a lifetime, an invitation to the Gabriel H. Penn Home for Childhood. The Home seems like a paradise, but Devin senses that something isn't right. Will he discover what foul play is lurking there in time to escape a horrible fate?

The Perfect Place by Teresa E. Harris, 272 pgs.

Treasure's dad has left, again. He promised like always that he'd be back soon, but it's been three months now. Before they can be evicted, Mom decides to pack up Treasure and her sister to stay with Great Aunt Grace (GAG, as the girls call her) while she searches for him. These two weeks will be horrible. What will the girls do with crotchety, grouchy old GAG?

Surrounded by Sharks by Michael Northrop, 224 pgs.

Tired of being crammed into a tiny hotel room with his mom, dad and brother, Davey escapes early one morning to a secluded beach. He doesn't leave a note. Davey intends to enjoy the quiet and spend some time reading. However, the water is so beautiful. Disregarding the "No Swimming" sign, he decides to step into the water and instantly his whole world changes. Follow as this story unfolds and consider... what would you do if you were alone in the ocean, no one knows where you are, and you are surrounded by sharks?

Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere by Julie T. Lamana, 320 pgs.

Armani lives with her family in a New Orleans community where she enjoys visiting the local donut shop. Her main thoughts swirl around her upcoming birthday party, but then the party is interrupted by the worst hurricane to ever make landfall in history, Hurricane Katrina. Is there any hope that her life will be the same again?