

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School

## 2017 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. **TITANIC: VOICES FROM THE DISASTER** by Deborah Hopkinson

(From Amazon.com) In this award-winning book, critically acclaimed author Deborah Hopkinson weaves together the voices and stories of real TITANIC survivors and witnesses to the disaster -- from the stewardess Violet Jessop to Captain Arthur Rostron of the CARPATHIA, who came to the rescue of the sinking ship. Packed with heart stopping action, devastating drama, fascinating historical details, loads of archival photographs on almost every page, quotes from primary sources, and painstaking back matter, this gripping story, which follows the TITANIC and its passengers from the ship's celebrated launch at Belfast to her cataclysmic icy end, is sure to thrill and move readers.

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

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

1. **SOUL SURFER** by Bethany Hamilton

In 2004, Bethany Hamilton published her autobiography "Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board," in which she tells the moving story of her triumphant return to competitive surfing. The book has since become a #1 New York Times bestseller and continues to inspire readers worldwide.

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. **STARGIRL** by Jerry Spinelli

(From Goodreads) From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, hallways hum "Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. Until they are not. Leo urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her - normal.

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

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

(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.

**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.