

**St. Mary Catholic Middle School**  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Reading is at the heart of any successful school program. Research findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (Langer, et al., 1990) clearly show a relationship between required reading and higher reading performance.

To help our students improve their reading skills, all incoming students at St. Mary Catholic Middle School are required to read at least three books over the summer. It is suggested that students choose books written by different authors. To find a list of books at your child's reading level and of interest to him/her, he/she may go to <https://www.lexile.com/fab> and choose a book from a list you can generate. Lexile scores can be found on the MAP test results, but if those are not available, you will be guided to an approximate score on the site. Students should select books that they have not already read from **3-different categories (fiction, nonfiction, biography, etc.)**. Please remember that not all books on this list will be appropriate for your child to read based on your family values.

For each book read, your child should answer one of the questions below. Answer a different question for each book. Each answer should be a well-developed paragraph of at least eight sentences. This will be the first graded assignment in language arts. Assignments will be graded based on meeting the length requirements and fully answering the question. To receive full credit, your child must give the assignments and the parent certification form to his/her language arts teacher at the beginning of the school year.

**Option:** Student and parent read a book together and discuss. This would only require a parent signature. This option can only be done for one book.

1. Which event in the book would you change? Why?
2. Which character was your favorite? Compare this character to yourself or to one of your friends.
3. What did you learn from this book?
4. What would you say to the author of this book if you could talk to him/her?

Title/Book #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Author/Book #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Book #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Author/Book #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Book #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Author/Book #3: \_\_\_\_\_

My signature certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has read the books listed above.  
(student's name)

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_