

St. Timothy Middle School Summer Reading 2018

Dear 8th Grade Students:

We hope you had a successful year in school and that you are enjoying your well-deserved rest. We don't want you to lose all of the valuable skills you have honed over the year, and we want you to be prepared to excel as soon as the new school year begins in August.

Therefore, we have devised a few assignments to keep your mind sharp. The reading portion of this assignment includes several books and a few writing activities.

Read the instructions carefully, work on your responses diligently, and come to school ready to discuss the literature you selected.

All summer work is due no later than September 7, 2018.

Your work will be graded, so do your best.

Instructions:

- You must read *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. You must read one other book from the list.
- Your third book can be any book you choose to read.
- Remember that you need to think about how these books relate to one or more of the elements of Catholic social teaching. A list of these elements is attached.
- Take notes as you read—use a highlighter or sticky notes to aid you in your notetaking.

Once you have finished a book you will create a study guide. You will do this for each book. We have included a template to help you create the study guide.

Part I. Vocabulary—Select 10 words from throughout the book that you imagine a student in the 8th grade might need to look up. Write out the part of speech, definition, and write an original sentence that will help a reader understand the word.

Part 2. Reading and discussion questions—Write 10 questions about the book.

These questions must come from different parts of the book (don't write all of the questions about chapter 1!) A few of the questions can deal with factual information. Most of these questions should contribute to a classroom discussion about the book.

Part 3: Response— Please prepare your responses in a Word document and staple to Parts 1&2.

1. Use an event or character from the book to make a connection between one of the elements of Catholic social teaching listed below. Write your response. This response must be at least 250 words, include specific references to the book, and demonstrate proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

2. Write a paragraph connecting this book to an experience or novel you have read in the past. Elaborate on either a text-to-text connection, text-to-self connection, or a text-to-world connection and describe it using at least 10 sentences.

St. Timothy 2018 8th grade summer reading book choices

1. *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
2. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
3. *Hour of the Bees* by Lindsay Eagar
4. *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

Elements of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that people are special and created by God. We need to treat others with respect and fairness.

2. Family, Community and Participation

We believe that every person has the right to live and participate in the community. We can create a loving community by helping each other.

3. Rights and Responsibilities

We believe that every person has rights; food, work, clothes, a home, a school, and medicine. We must help those without these rights receive them.

4. Care for God's Creation

We believe that we all have a role in respecting and protecting all people and the Earth.

5. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

We believe that the needs of the poor should be considered first. Those people who are not poor should share what they have with others.

6. Dignity and Rights of Workers

We believe that the needs of all workers are respected. When working we can use the talents God has given us.

7. Solidarity

We believe that all of us are God's family, and that we must live and work together despite the differences among us.