

June 2017

Dear Seventh Grader,

I am looking forward to your August arrival! In the meantime, please enjoy your summer break AND your summer reading. You will first decide which disaster topic you would like to read more about, and then you will make one selection each from both the fiction and non-fiction offerings.

HURRICANE KATRINA

FICTION

- *Zane and the Hurricane* by Rodman Philbrick
- *Buddy* by M.H. Herlong

NONFICTION

- *What Was Hurricane Katrina?* by Robin Michal Koontz
- *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans* by Don Brown

GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

FICTION

- *Firestorm!* by Joan Hiatt Harlow
- *Survivors Fire, Chicago, 1871* by Kathleen Duey (part of the *Survivors!* Series)

NONFICTION

- *What Was the Great Chicago Fire?* by Janet Pascal
- *The Great Chicago Fire* by Robin Johnson

SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE 1906

FICTION

- *Into the Firestorm, A Novel of San Francisco, 1906* by Deborah Hopkinson
- *Survivors Earthquake, San Francisco, 1906* by Kathleen Duey (part of the *Survivors!* Series)

NONFICTION

- *What Was the San Francisco Earthquake?* by Dorothy Hoobler
- *If You Lived at the Time of the Great San Francisco Earthquake* by Ellen Levine

AR Requirements

- An AR test must be taken for both your fiction choice and your non-fiction choice. You may refer to your non-fiction book when you take the test, so be sure to bring it with you.
- ***The school will be open over the summer from June 6th to July 27th on Tuesdays from 10am to 11:30am and on Thursdays from 4pm to 5:30pm ONLY. The lab will be CLOSED on July 4th.*** Please enter from 5th Street at the door on the side of the school closest to classroom 8A and proceed to the Computer Lab from there.
- You may also take the tests within the first week of school. They will count for grades to assess your independent reading, but if you do not do well, please do not stress. It is only the start of the year and you will have plenty of opportunities to raise your average as long as you're willing to put in the effort.

Written Assignments:

- Attached you will find two separate assignments – one for your fiction choice and one for your non-fiction choice. These will both be due on the second day of school. Please read and follow the directions carefully.

I will check my email throughout the summer – thomasn@stsusanna.org – so don't hesitate to send me your questions or concerns. I will also be working at Summer AR, so feel free to speak to me there too. This information will also be posted on OptionC. I am looking forward to meeting you!

Most sincerely,
Miss Thomas

Complete this assignment for your FICTION book choice.

Assignment: Create this on 8.5 x 11 paper – any color. If you need a larger piece of paper or small poster board, that is fine too. Please do not use a really large piece of poster board. You may do it all by computer, all by hand (if you are a neat, legible writer and careful worker) or cut and paste technologically or with actual scissors and a glue stick! Include the following info in an engaging way that catches the eye using decoration, color, and neatness:

1. Author
2. Title of book (underline or italicize)
3. Illustration/printed image (use color) of your favorite scene from the book and detailed explanation of why.
4. Brief summary of the plot. (3-5 sentences)
5. If this book was a color, what would it be and why? (1 complete sentence)
6. Provide two vivid (look this word up) adjectives to describe your novel's main character or topic. Provide text evidence of each by providing the page number AND the excerpt straight from the story (put it in italics to show these are not your words) to prove your point.
7. Who would you recommend this novel to and why? Explain your reasoning clearly and completely.

******Presentation counts – use color, decoration, and be neat******

Example:

1. Yann Martel
2. *Life of Pi* (underline or italicize)
3. Illustration or image (use color) and detailed explanation
4. This book is about a young Indian boy named Pi whose family owns a zoo. The family moves with their zoo to Canada by ship, but they tragically shipwreck at sea. The only ones who survive are the young boy and the zoo's prized possession: its Bengali tiger. Pi is forced to coexist with the ferocious tiger and limited supplies aboard a life boat in the middle of the ocean. Pi's unbelievable tale of survival is narrated by his older self, reflecting on the life-altering experience.
5. If this book was a color it would be orange to represent the main character's biggest conflict (the tiger) and to also represent the main character's courage that burns inside him and keeps him motivated to survive.
6. Pi is pious and dauntless. Add in page numbers and text evidence for each of your examples as proof.
7. I would recommend this novel to anyone who enjoys tales of adventure and survival. I would also recommend this novel to anyone curious about various spiritualities, as Pi discusses his personal spiritual journey and how religion has helped him throughout his rather tragic life.

Complete this assignment for your NON-FICTION book choice.

Assignment: Type your responses. Your non-fiction book touched upon many topics which are included below. Choose three from the “Encouraging” column and three from the “Disheartening” column. Find text evidence to demonstrate where this topic is covered in your book. Your text evidence may NOT be used more than once. One piece of different evidence for EACH topic is required.

- **Include the actual evidence from the book in italics or enclosed in quotation marks.**
- **Provide page numbers.**
- **Write an explanation in your own words using complete sentence(s).**

ENCOURAGING

DISHEARTENING

Courage

Racism/Prejudice

Hope

Tragedy

Rescue Efforts/Relief Help

Power

Volunteerism

Criminality/Lawlessness

Inspiration

Communication Failure

Heroism

Greed

Selflessness

Death/Destruction

Innovation

Poverty

Generosity

Homelessness

Opportunity

Money/Economy Problems

Faith

Helplessness