

May 20, 2024

Dear Middle School Students (and Parents),

I am sure you are all looking forward to summer break! Don't forget that it is important to continue reading even when you are not in school. Middle school students at St. Peter are required to read a novel over the summer and complete an assignment (see attached). This novel will be the subject of the first literature unit of the 2024-2025 school year. Below is a list of the books that are required reading for each grade:

- 6th Grade** **The Magician's Nephew, by C. S. Lewis**
- 7th Grade** **The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, by Howard Pyle**
- 8th Grade** **The Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare**

All students must turn in the assignment for their books on the first FULL day of school, Thursday, August 15, 2024. Any student who is registered for the 2024-2025 school year may check out the required reading book from Mrs. Kilday. If you are not currently registered, you will need to check out the book from the library or purchase it.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Enjoy your summer! If questions arise during the summer, please contact the school office.

Mrs. Kilday
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English-6 Summer Reading: *The Magician's Nephew*

Answer the 4 questions below IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. Be sure to answer all parts of the questions using evidence/quotes from the novel. We will use these questions for a Socratic seminar at the start of the school year.

1. Uncle Andrew and Queen Jadis act as though rules do not apply to them. Do they face the consequences the way we might in real life?
2. Aslan's creation song is beautiful, but both the Queen and Uncle Andrew hate it. What does this mean?
3. Aslan knows Digory's sin has resulted in evil entering Narnia and that will mean real trouble. But most of that trouble, Aslan says, will fall on him. What does he mean by this?
4. Evil often masquerades as beauty as it does in Queen Jadis. What do you think about this? What do you think Lewis wants us to recognize?

English-7 Summer Reading: *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*

Answer the 3 questions below IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. Be sure to answer all parts of the questions using evidence from the novel. We will use these questions for a Socratic seminar at the start of the school year.

1. To the authorities, Robin Hood is a criminal and a social menace, but to the common people, he is a hero and a force for good. How do you view him? How would someone like Robin Hood be treated today?
2. Most of Robin's adversaries are depicted as villains, but not all are equally bad. Using your understanding of the novel, identify one character as the most villainous in the book. Then, using specific examples from the story, defend your choice as you prove that the character is the evilest person Robin encounters.
3. In *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, the rich get richer and the poor suffer more. When Robin acts to correct things, he breaks the law, stealing from and assaulting those who do not agree with him. However, his actions do not really seem wrong because they benefit the downtrodden. In an unjust society, when is civil disobedience acceptable?

English-8 Summer Reading: *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

Answer the 3 questions below IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. Be sure to answer all parts of the questions using evidence/quotes from the novel. We will use these questions for a Socratic seminar at the start of the school year.

1. Look up the definition of hypocrisy. How does hypocrisy play a role in *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*? Give at least three separate examples to support your answer.
2. Consider each of the testimonies against Kit. Do they seem reasonable? Do they seem like false accusations? If you were called as a witness, you were there you read ALL the details. What would you testify?
3. How can we, as Catholic Christians, reconcile the commands to love and serve our neighbor, with the warnings against associating with "bad company"? Where do you personally, draw a line between maintaining relationships with people so that you might help them, and disassociating yourself with people for good reasons?