

St. John Fisher Summer Reading Assignment 2025
Students entering 8th Grade

Read ONE (1) of the following books:

***Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

This is the first book in a 7 book series. If you like dystopian fiction (a type of science fiction-think Hunger Games, Giver, Divergent-you may like this book!)

***A Rover's Story* by Jasmine Warga**

This is a stand alone book. It is also a science fiction book, but it is pure science fiction about a fictional Mars rover. If you have ever read The Wild Robot, and enjoyed it, this might be a book you like!

***The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle* by Tary Souders**

This book is about a group of three friends who go on a search for a buried treasure and solve a murder mystery along the way. If you like mysteries, this book might be for you!

***Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

This is a realistic fiction book about a boy about your age who is living a normal life until he finds out his little brother is sick and he has to work really hard to hold everything together. This is the only realistic fiction book that doesn't fit into any other category on our list!

***Please note! I have chosen these books because we have the opportunity to meet with each of these authors virtually during the upcoming school year. Please keep this in mind when you are completing your summer reading assignment.**

After reading the novel of your choice, please complete the following three tasks for your book.

- **Type and print** your responses
- Please be neat and thorough in responding. Please answer in **complete sentences** and use proper grammar and spelling.
- **Due Date: August 20, 2025**

There are THREE PARTS to this assignment:

PART 1:

SETTING:

1. Describe the setting of the novel. (When and where does the story take place?) If the book has several settings, choose TWO of the settings and describe each setting in 2-3 sentences.

CHARACTERS:

2. The protagonist is the main character in the story (who the reader roots for). Who is the protagonist in this novel? Answer in a complete sentence.
 - a. Describe the protagonist in 2-3 sentences. Your description should be a combination of physical traits and character traits.
 - b. Identify three examples of textual evidence which support your description of the protagonist. (include page numbers with your evidence)
3. Describe two other characters from the novel. Write at least 2 sentences for each character. Tell me who they are, including at least 1 character trait in your description

CONFLICT is the struggle or problem in the novel. (The conflict of the story can exist between the following: person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs self, person vs. society or person vs. supernatural)

4. Identify and describe the main conflict of the novel. This should be a minimum of 5 sentences. Here is an example of my expectations:

The main conflict in *The Outsiders* is person vs. person. In the book, the Socs and the Greasers do not get along. The Socs and the Greasers get into a fight, and one of the Socs is killed. This forces Ponyboy and Johnny to run away so that they do not get in trouble with the law.

Part 2:

If you read *Among the Hidden*:

Write ONE SENTENCE to answer each of the following comprehension questions:

1. Where is Luke forced to eat all of his meals and why?
2. Which house in Luke's neighborhood keeps all of their window shades drawn and why?
3. What signal do Luke and Jen agree on that will let them know that it is safe for them to meet?
4. According to Jen, why is it illegal for people to have pets?
5. When the population police come to Jen's house, where does Luke hide?

Project: Design a poster that Jen could share with her friends and other "shadow children" to convince them to join her at the rally. You can use your artistic skills, or if you have access to a computer, you can design it on a Google Slide, Google Doc or Canva. If you choose to make a digital poster, you must print it out at home. You will not be allowed to print at school. If you can not print at home, please create your poster using paper and markers/colored pencils/crayons.

If you read *The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle*

Write ONE SENTENCE to answer each of the following comprehension questions:

1. What is the name of the pawn shop that Arliss and Arlene run?
2. What clues lead Grady to dig at the church?
3. Where is Grady when the fire starts and why is he there?
4. What did Grady discover was wrong with Matthew 17:39 and Ezra 17:48?
5. What did Badger do that made everyone think he was guilty of murder?

Project: Draw what you imagine the sampler to look like in your mind as you read. Use the details from the text to make it as accurate as possible. Be sure to include any words, letters, numbers or objects described in the book in your drawing.

If you read *A Rover's Story*:

Write ONE SENTENCE to answer each of the following comprehension questions:

1. Why do they need to send a drone to Mars with Res?
2. What do the Hazmats hope that the Rovers will find on Mars and what would it mean?
3. How long will it take Res to get to Mars and how much will it cost to bring him back?
4. What is Guardian and why is Guardian there?
5. How long was Res offline?

Project: Throughout the book, Sophie writes letters to the rover. Choose a place in the book where you have questions you would like to ask Res. Write a letter to Res. You should include a page number where this letter would be inserted. For example, if you are writing to Res asking questions about Mars, make sure it is inserted after Res has arrived on Mars. Note that Sophie's letters to Res included personal information about things happening on Earth. Your letter should too. It should NOT just be a list of questions. The letter should be 10-12 sentences long and be in letter format.

If you read *Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie*:

Write ONE SENTENCE to answer each of the following comprehension questions:

1. Why did Steven stop taking drum lessons and how did Mr. Stall react when Steven said he wasn't going to take them anymore?
2. The title of the book includes the words "Dangerous Pie." Who made Dangerous Pie and what was it?
3. Who is Renee?
4. Why was it such a big deal when Steven got the flu?
5. What are three major problems that Steven must deal with throughout the book? (Not just on 1-2 pages, but problems that last for a majority of the story)

Project: Annette and Renee plan a benefit for Steven's family. Design a poster promoting the event. Make sure you explain all the ways that a person could choose to participate to help Steven's family. You can use paper/crayons/markers/colored pencils if you choose, or you may make the poster digitally using Google Sheets, Google Docs or Canva. If you choose to make a digital poster, you must print it out at home. You will not be allowed to print at school. If you can not print at home, please create your poster using paper and markers/colored pencils/crayons.

Part 3

As explained earlier in this assignment, we will have the opportunity to visit with the authors of each of these books virtually during the school year. After reading the book of your choice, write THREE thoughtful questions that you could ask the author. The questions can be specific to your book, or they can be questions for the author about his or her writing process.

*Please keep in mind that unless authors are promoting a new book, they generally do not share information about upcoming projects or the next books they are writing.

**Another thing to note is that authors will typically NOT choose their “favorite book they wrote.” To authors, books are like kids...they don’t have a favorite. There are things they like about each book they have written.