



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2024-2025

All students must read *The Gospel of Luke* in addition to a novel of their choice from the list below. Students will then complete a one-pager book report that will be due the first week of school in September.

***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling:** At age 13, Aven struggles to make new friends at her new school, where the kids can't seem to see past her missing arms. Her life takes an unexpected turn with the move, her father's new job, and a new friendship with Connor, a classmate who feels isolated because of his own disability. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your fears all at the same time!

***Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix:** Luke has never been to school. Or a birthday party, or to a sleepover at a friend's house. In fact, he's never had a friend! Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the population police. Changes in the neighborhood now prevent Luke from even going outside for fear of getting caught. Will he risk everything to come out of the shadows and befriend another of the shadow children spotted in the window of a house nearby?

***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds:** *Ghost* is a novel by acclaimed author Jason Reynolds that follows Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw, a troubled middle-schooled aged youth who joins the Defenders track team. Ghost has a traumatic past involving his alcoholic father who shot at him and his mother. With the help of his mentor, Coach Brody, Ghost learns to overcome his anger and find a new direction in life. The novel explores themes of resilience, second chances, redemption, healing, and personal growth.

***The Unteachables* by Gordon Korman:** a contemporary middle-grade novel about a group of students considered unteachable and their experience with a teacher who has lost his passion for teaching. Together, they face challenges, learn to embrace their differences, and work to resolve a decades-old scandal. It's a story of redemption, reform, and the impact of understanding and compassion in the classroom.

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt:** On the first day of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Holling realizes that his teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates him. She gives him a dark look when she realizes he's the only Presbyterian student and will therefore be in school on Wednesday afternoons instead of attending catechism or Hebrew school. Holling faces various trials and adventures throughout the school year, including dealing with Mrs. Baker's unconventional assignments and unexpected friendships. A delightful read that combines humor, poignant moments, and historical context.

## One Pager – Book Report/Project Directions

For this project, you will be responding creatively to the novel that you have chosen to read over the summer. This project will include a written and graphic interpretation of the novel. You will include facts and information about the book, as well as visual representations of important literary elements. Your project will be graded on accuracy, neatness, and creativity. Please refer to the directions below when completing your project.

1. Your project will be completed on 8 ½ x 14 inch white paper.
2. You will need to use supplies such as colored pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils etc.
3. Arrange the following required elements on the page in any way you choose:

Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title and Author of the Novel</li> <li>• Your full name</li> </ul>	10 points
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Plot</b> – provide a brief summary of the plot: What is the conflict of the story? What is the climax? What is the resolution?</li> <li>• <b>Characters</b> – Choose one main character to highlight. Include a quote from or about that person and tell why it is significant. (don't forget to include page number!)</li> <li>• <b>Setting</b> – describe the setting (location and time period) and tell how the setting is important to the plot</li> <li>• <b>Symbolism</b> – Identify a symbol in the novel and explain its importance</li> <li>• <b>Theme</b> – Describe one major theme presented in the novel.</li> <li>• <b>Quote</b> – Choose one quote from the text that supports the theme and explain the context and significance of the quote.</li> <li>• <b>Reflection</b> - Reflect on the book and give your honest opinion of likes and dislikes in a few sentences. You may consider giving the book a rating and then justify your rating.</li> </ul>	40 points
Graphics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include three or more illustrations that are clearly and directly related the novel somehow.</li> <li>• At least one of those illustrations should be a symbol from the novel and the symbolism should be explained</li> <li>• Graphic elements should be neat, colored, and are incorporated seamlessly into the work.</li> </ul>	30 points
Overall Impression and Attention to Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page is detailed and neat</li> <li>• Page is filled entirely and colored</li> <li>• Proper grammar, punctuation, spelling and usage are used.</li> </ul>	20 points