



## 8<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.

### **Touching Spirit Bear**

"Touching Spirit Bear" by Ben Mikaelson follows the troubled teenager Cole Matthews, who is given a chance to avoid jail by participating in a Native American Circle Justice program. Sent to a remote Alaskan island, Cole must confront his anger and learn survival skills. His transformative journey is deeply tied to his encounters with the mystical Spirit Bear.

### **Stargirl**

In Jerry Spinelli's "Stargirl," the arrival of a unique and nonconformist student named Stargirl Caraway at Mica High School profoundly impacts the student body. Her whimsical and kind nature both captivates and alienates her peers. The novel explores themes of individuality, popularity, and the pressures to conform.

### **Call of the Wild**

Jack London's "Call of the Wild" chronicles the adventures of Buck, a domesticated dog who is kidnapped and sold into the brutal life of an Alaskan sled dog. As Buck is exposed to the harsh wilderness, he gradually reverts to his primal instincts. The story highlights the powerful influence of nature and survival.

### **The Westing Game**

Ellen Raskin's "The Westing Game" is a mystery novel where sixteen heirs of the eccentric millionaire Samuel Westing are summoned to solve the puzzle of his murder. The heirs are paired off and given clues that will lead them to the inheritance if they can solve the mystery. The novel is a clever and engaging whodunit with twists and turns.

### **The Devil's Arithmetic**

In "The Devil's Arithmetic" by Jane Yolen, a young Jewish girl named Hannah is transported back in time to a Polish village during World War II. She experiences the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp firsthand. The novel emphasizes the importance of remembering history and the atrocities of the Holocaust.

### **Anne of Green Gables**

L.M. Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables" tells the story of Anne Shirley, an imaginative and talkative orphan mistakenly sent to live with siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert on Prince Edward Island. Anne's lively spirit and adventures transform the lives of those around her. The novel is a heartwarming tale of belonging and the beauty of simple, rural life.

## 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 in 1-3 sentences: What happens in the beginning (exposition + conflict), middle (rising action + conflict), end (resolution) of the story.</li> <li>• <b>Characters</b> – Choose one main character to highlight. Include a quote from that person and tell why it is significant.</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>Point of View (of the narrator)</b> – from what point of view is the story told and how does that affect the story?</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