



Required Reading for Summer 2020 Grade 7

Please purchase and read the three summer reading novels listed below. The summer reading assessment will take place during the first full week of school. Your assessment will consist of two parts: written response and short answer/ multiple choice. The written response will focus on Compassionate Service. As you read you should annotate examples of how the main character in each novel does or does not show Compassionate Service. When you take the written response portion of the summer reading assessment you will need to use textual evidence to show that the main character in each book does or does not show Compassionate Service. You will be able to bring a piece of paper with your textual evidence written down when you take the summer reading assessment; We don't expect you to memorize your textual evidence!

Questions to Consider as You Read: Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women is founded on the Sisters of Mercy Core Values. One of the values is Compassionate Service: living out the Gospel imperative to care for those in need.

- When do the characters take care of or feel compassion for those around them?
- When do the characters NOT care about others or help those around them?
- Do EACH of the Summer Reading novel main characters support this value of Compassionate Service? Why or why not?

REQUIRED BOOK #1 and REQUIRED BOOK #2:

Every student must read both of the following novels:

- *A Long Walk to Water*- Linda Sue Park

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.

- *Between Shades of Gray*- Ruta Sepetys

It is 1941, and 15-year-old Lina Vilkas is arrested by the Soviet secret police and deported to Siberia with her mother and younger brother. Lina's writings and drawings chronicle her fight for survival, her difficulty accepting help from a Soviet guard she's supposed to hate, and her struggle to retain faith in mankind amidst the terror. Although fiction, the novel is partly based upon the stories Sepetys heard from survivors of Soviet repressions in the Baltic states during a visit to her relatives in Lithuania.

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REQUIRED BOOK #3:

Students must also read one of the following novels:

- *A Wrinkle in Time* – Madeline L’Engle

A science fiction classic, this novel tells the story of the Murray children whose father goes missing while working on a mysterious project - a tesseract. The children must travel through time to take on the Dark Thing in a brave attempt to rescue their father.

- *Walk Two Moons* – Sharon Creech

To trace the path of her missing mother, Sal embarks on a journey from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents. On the road, Sal tells the strange and exciting story of her friend, Phoebe. In unraveling Phoebe’s mystery, Sal comes closer to finding out the truth behind her own bittersweet journey.

- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* – Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

- *Close to Famous*- Joan Bauer

The residents of Culpepper, despite their grand aspirations, have made little progress toward achieving their goals, but unexpected events and surprises put the ambitions of the residents of Culpepper to the test.

- *Or Give Me Death*- Ann Rinaldi

With insight and compassion, Ann Rinaldi explores the possibility that Patrick Henry's immortal cry of "Give me liberty, or give me death," which roused a nation to arms, was first spoken by his wife, Sarah, as she pleaded to be released from her confinement. Told from the point of view of Patrick Henry's children, *Or Give Me Death* eloquently depicts the secret life and tremendous burdens borne by one famous American.

- *Warriors Don't Cry*- Melba Pattillo Beals

In 1957, well before Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock’s Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*.

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OUR LADY OF MERCY

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Grades 6-12

- *The Westing Game*- Ellen Raskin

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!



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