



ST. MARYS CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Each year all SMCMS have a school-wide summer reading and math program. Middle school students will be reading a novel over the summer and then will complete a guided reading assignment and activity sheet as part of their reading. Each grade will have the choice of three selections that align to topics covered in social studies:

Please note: The BL represents book level, the level of the vocabulary in the book. 3.9 would represent third grade, ninth month. However, the BL number does not measure the complexity of the concepts that are contained in the book. Based on concepts contained in the novels, they are all recommended for middle level students.

Incoming 6th Graders:

“Courage of Sarah Noble” by Alice Dalgliesh	BL: 3.9
“Molly Pitcher: Young Patriot” by Augusta Stevenson	BL: 3.4
“The Fighting Ground” by Avi	BL: 4.2

Incoming 7th Graders:

“Sarny, A Life Remembered” by Gary Paulsen	BL: 5.7
“Soldier’s Heart” by Gary Paulsen	BL: 5.7
“A Light in the Storm” by Karen Hesse	BL: 5.3

Incoming 8th Graders:

“Number the Stars” by Lois Lowry	BL 4.5
“The Devil’s Arithmetic” by Jane Yolen	BL 4.6
“Boy in the Striped Pajamas” by John Boyne	BL 5.8

For the book that the student selects, they will receive the accompanying directed reading/activities sheet. The sheet must be completed and returned to school in August. During the school year, the books and activities sheet will be discussed as part of the Social Studies curriculum.



The Courage of Sarah Noble

Answer the following questions in sentence form.

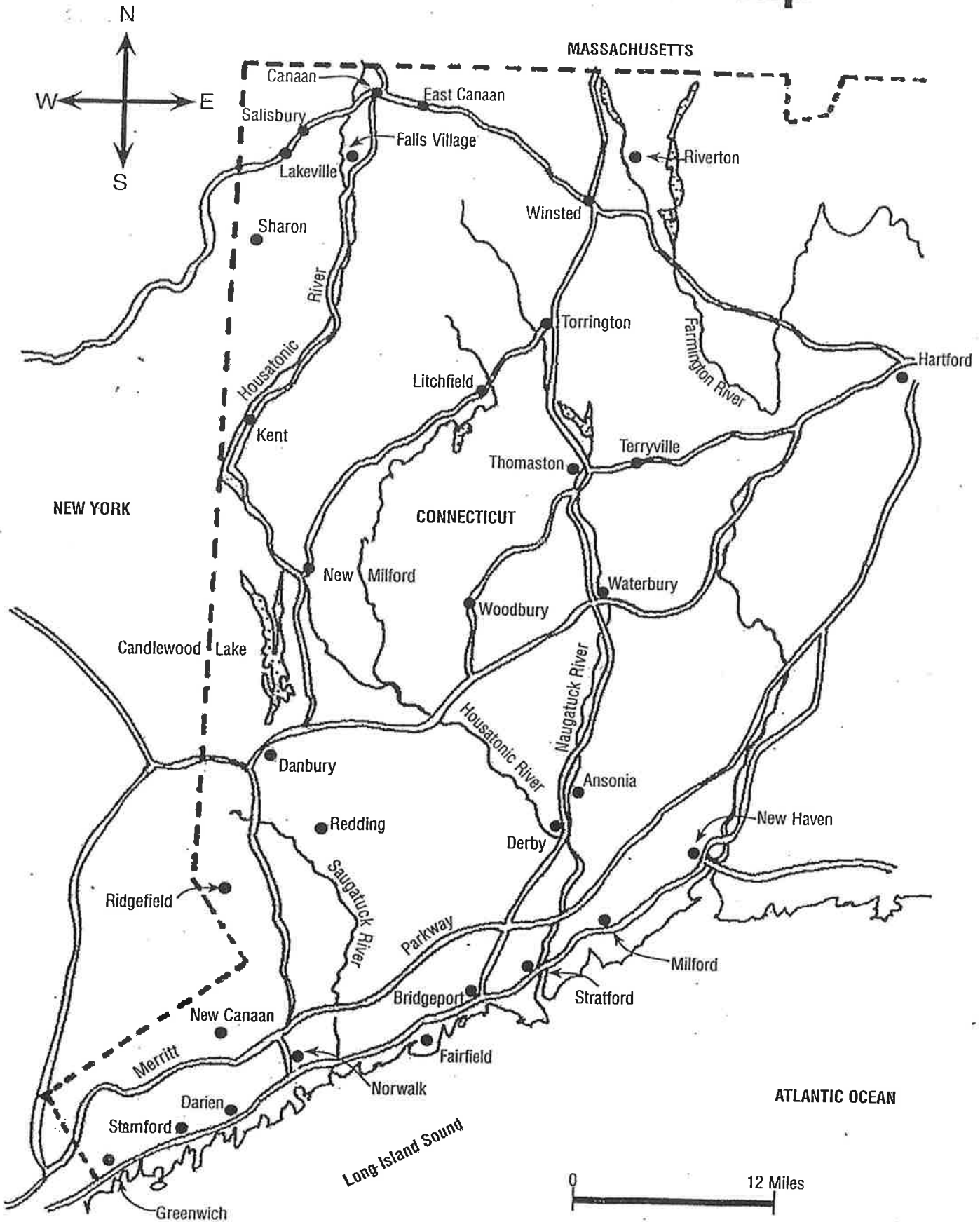
Chapters 1-3

1. Why does Sarah's father worry about bringing her along?
2. Why did Mrs. Noble tell Sarah to keep up her courage?
3. Would you willingly go on Sarah's journey? Why or why not?

Chapters 4-7

1. Why did Sarah hold back her tears until her father had left?
2. Do you think there will be an attack from the northern Native American tribes? Why?
3. What might have happened if Sarah had refused to stay with Tall John's family?

Western Connecticut Map



Western Connecticut Map

Directions: The roads and highways of today are often based on the trails used by the Indians and settlers hundreds of years ago.



1. Find and circle New Milford.
2. Use a yellow crayon or marker to trace a probable route the Nobles took from Massachusetts to Connecticut.
3. What is the modern name for the Great River near which they lived? _____
4. What lake is near New Milford? _____ Color it blue.
5. The town of New Milford, Connecticut, is near the border of what state? _____ Trace the border with a red crayon or marker.
6. Use a ruler to draw a straight line connecting Milford with New Milford. Then, using the scale provided, figure out the distance between the two places. _____
7. How far is New Milford from the nearest state border?

8. If you made a living by catching fish, in what town would you most likely settle? _____
9. What is the name of the state that is north of New Milford? _____ Color its border with a brown crayon or marker.
10. What is the name of the very large body of water that is south of New Milford and runs along Connecticut's coast?



Chapters 8-11

1. Does Sarah like Tall John's wife's cooking? How do you know?

2. Why is it important that Sarah's courage always be with her?

3. What do you think might happen if the watchers on Guarding Hill had sent a warning?

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Would you recommend it to a friend?



The Fighting Ground

Answer the following questions in sentence form.

Pages 3-22

1. Why doesn't Jonathan's father speak of war any longer?

2. How does Jonathan mislead his mother? Do you think he was wrong to mislead her? Why or why not?

3. Where did Jonathan get a gun?

Pages 22-40

1. How does Jonathan feel after his conversation with his father's friend? Why?

2. What kind of man does the Frenchman seem to be?

3. How does the sound of the fife affect Jonathan? Why do you suppose the bands of soldiers often used to bring fife players along?

Pages 41-62

1. Who are the Hessians? What kind of reputation do they have?
2. How can you tell that Jonathan is afraid? Do you think he is a coward? Why or why not?

Pages 62-79

1. In what way does the tall soldier remind Jonathan of his father?
2. Why does the old soldier sent Jonathan into the house first?

Pages 80-99

1. Why does Jonathan decide to tell the soldiers about the boy?
2. Who helps Jonathan bury the family?

Pages 100-121

1. What problems does Jonathan have to solve before he can escape?
2. What does Jonathan learn about what happened in the battle?

Pages 121-139

1. Who killed the man and woman? Why?

2. Jonathan tells the men that the Hessians are sleeping. Explain what the response "Ducks in a pond" means.

Pages 139-152

1. How does Jonathan disobey the Corporal?

2. How do Jonathan's feelings about war change? How do you think his life will be changed as a result of his experience in battle?

3. How might the story be different if Jonathan had killed the Hessians when he had the chance?

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Would you recommend it to a friend?

Hodgepodge Puzzle:

Below are eight clues to words and names in *The Fighting Ground*. Unscramble each of the eight words, putting one letter in each square.

1. A volunteer army of civilians who drill and practice.

A T L I M I I

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2. The main character in *The Fighting Ground*.

N O T J A H A N

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. The young boy did not do this until he met the Frenchman.

K A P E S

--	--	--	--	--

4. The dead couple were French _____.

S P I T S A P

--	--	--	--	--	--

5. One angry man reminded the stranger that the group had not elected him _____.

P L O R R A C O

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. The tavernkeeper called Jonathan a sly _____ because Jonathan sneaked away from home to fight.

S T O B O

--	--	--	--	--

7. Professional soldiers who fight for money.

R E E N C R A S I M E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. The Hessians were members of this group of special selected foot soldiers.

D R A G R E E N I S

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Now rearrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer to the mystery question below.

What did the young Hessian soldier cry out when the old soldier held Jonathan as a shield?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Molly Pitcher

Answer the following questions in sentence form.

Pages 11-38

1. When Molly's father came home from the sheriff's, he expected to see the cows in the barnyard. They were not there. Why?
2. How was a German house different from a Dutch house?
3. Give three details about the Ludwig house that tell us that Molly's mother kept a tidy house.

Pages 39-71

1. Why did Molly's father decide not to take one of his cows to the fair?
2. When Molly checks on Blossom, she discovers the thief who had stolen Blossom. What was he attempting to do? How do you know?
3. What prize did Blossom win?
4. What were the secret closets at Aunt Christy's house used for?
5. Molly uses the confusion surrounding the "Indian sighting" to slip away. Where is she going? Why?



Pages 72-93

1. Molly tells the soldiers that the Dutch can foretell the weather. What signs does she tell them mean rain?
2. How did Mary (Molly) Ludwig get the nickname Molly Pitcher?

Pages 94-120

1. Why do you think the Ludwig's agreed to allow Molly to go to Carlisle with Dr. and Mrs. Irvine?
2. How did Molly keep the wagon from being blown into the river?
3. Who was the captain of the smugglers? Why couldn't Molly tell her parents about the captain?

Pages 121-151

1. What did Mrs. Irvine overhear from the Grimes?
2. How was the Irvine's house different from Molly's?
3. Why did Mrs. Irvine call her party for Molly an "Everyday-Dress Party"?
4. Why didn't Cynthia attend?

Pages 152-175

1. Why is it best if Molly and Anne Irvine don't know the men's names?
2. Where is Molly's brother Joseph when she sees him?
3. How did Molly entertain the wounded soldiers? Give an example.

Pages 176-192

1. Who is John Hays?
2. How did Molly come to take over firing a cannon?

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Would you recommend it to a friend?

On the back of this page, draw a filmstrip to depict a scene from the book. Vertical or horizontal is acceptable. Color is optional. Make sure to include speech bubbles and at least four pictures in your strip.

