



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.



Number the Stars

Answer the following questions in sentence form.

Chapter 1

Why is it important to NOT be remembered by the soldiers?

Chapter 2

Why does Peter Neilsen still stop by Annmarie's house?

Chapter 3

Is the Nazi treatment of the Jewish people fair? Why or why not?

Chapter 4

Why did Ellen's parents have to leave?

Chapter 5

Write two questions of your own.

1.

2.

Chapter 6

Why have Mrs. Johanson and the girls gone to visit Uncle Henrik?

Chapter 7

Describe what the author means by the phrase "fresh eyes".

Chapter 8

Why doesn't Annemarie remember who Aunt Birdie is?

Chapter 9

What did Uncle Henrik mean when he stated, "It is much easier to be brave if you do not know everything?"

Chapter 10

Why are they opening the casket now that the soldiers have left?

Chapter 11

What did Peter give the baby? Why?

Chapter 12

What has happened to Annemarie's mother?

Chapter 13

If you were in Annemarie's position, what would you do if you ran into the soldiers?

Chapter 14

Why did Annemarie spend her time thinking about the story she always told her sister?

Chapter 15

Did Uncle Henrik need the package Annemarie brought to him, or was he just being polite? Explain.

Chapter 16

What would have happened to the Jewish people on the boat if the Germans would have found them?

Chapter 17

Why is Annemarie planning on wearing Ellen's necklace?

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Would you recommend it to a friend?

Use this space to write questions you may have for our discussion during our study of WWII.

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What Would You Do?

Put yourself in the Rosens' place. What would you do if you had to suddenly leave the country? What would you want to take with you? Remember that they could only take very small items that could be carried with them, such as a locket, a small picture, or perhaps a small book. What about your family? Would your parents choose something different from what you would consider valuable? Interview them to find out!

In the spaces below, list the names of each of your family members to find out what small things they would carry with them and what they would most upset about leaving behind.

Name _____
Items to take _____

Hate to leave _____

Name _____
Items to take _____

Hate to leave _____

Name _____
Items to take _____

Hate to leave _____

Name _____
Items to take _____

Hate to leave _____

If you need more space, use the back of this page.



The Devil's Arithmetic

Answer the following questions in sentence form.

Chapters 1-2

What is one moment in all the family gatherings that Hannah finds special?

Chapters 3-4

Why does Grandpa Will give Hannah the honor of opening the door for Elijah?

Chapters 5-6

What does Aunt Eva tell Hannah is the reason there were no pictures of her family?

Chapters 7-8

What does Hannah tell the wedding party they must do when she realizes the soldiers are Nazis?

Chapters 9-10

Why does the Nazi soldier want the villagers to lie on the ground?

Chapters 11-12

1. What do the soldiers do with the people who die on the train?
2. What does the black smoke remind Hannah of as she looks up at the smokestack?

Chapters 13-14

1. What memories pass through Hannah's mind as she is told to hurry and get in the food line?
2. What does Hannah say the numbers on her arm stand for?

Chapters 15-16

1. What happens to Rabbi Boruch?
2. Does Rivka think that Hannah's idea is worthwhile? Why or why not?

Chapters 17-18

1. Who actually goes into Lilith's cave to die? Why?
2. What message does Hannah say will be carried into the future?

Conflict

The conflict of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are three main types of conflict: person against person, person against nature or society, and person against himself/herself.

Directions: The characters in *The Devil's Arithmetic* experience many conflicts in the story. In the chart below list the names of Hannah, Gitl, and Commandant Breuer (or the character of your choice). In the space provided, list a conflict each character experienced. Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

Character:	
Conflict	Resolution

Character:	
Conflict	Resolution

Character:	
Conflict	Resolution

Did you like this book? Why or why not?

Would you recommend it to a friend?

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The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Answer the following questions in sentence form.

Chapters 1-3

1. What does Bruno's family do to stay safe at night?

2. Do you think Bruno has the right to complain about the move to the new house? Why or why not?

What phrase does Mother tell him to use?

Chapters 4-6

1. Why is the wooden bench turned to face the house?

2. What does Bruno think the phrase "Heil Hitler" means? What does the phrase really mean?

Chapters 7-9

1. Why is Bruno surprised to learn Lieutenant Kotler has friends?
2. What is Grandfather's opinion of Father's new uniform? What is Grandmother's? How do you explain their different opinions?

Chapters 10-12

1. What does Gretel say "the Fury" does? What does the blonde woman say her name is? What are these people's full names?
2. Why doesn't Bruno believe everything Shmuel tells him?

Chapters 13-14

1. Do you think Father's questions affect Lieutenant Kotler's reaction to Pavel spilling the wine?
2. What does Bruno ask Shmuel every day? What is Shmuel's response?

Chapters 15-17

1. Why is Bruno ashamed of himself? Do you think his actions were justified under the circumstances?

Chapters 18-20

1. What does Bruno want from his and Shmuel's "final adventure"? What does Shmuel want?

2. Could Bruno and Shmuel's story happen now? Why or why not?

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Would you recommend it to a friend?

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Flock Together

Directions: On each boy's feather, explain how he is similar to his friend. On the lines below the feathers, explain how the two boys are different.


