

**All Saints STEAM Academy Middle School  
Summer Reading Assignments 2019**

*"My early and invincible love of reading I would not exchange for  
all the riches of India." –Edward Gibbon*

Dear Middle School Parents and Students,

As we finish another exciting chapter at AS<sup>2</sup>A, we look forward to the fun-filled learning activities to come next year. In preparation for that learning, it is important to hold on to the skills you have learned by **READING!** Each student must complete the Summer Reading assignments and prepare answers to the assigned questions and/or essay topics. The Summer Reading requirements are listed below.

**Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders** read Bridge to Terabithia and answer the attached discussion questions AND read 1 novel of your choice and complete the attached Book Report for that novel.

**Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders** read 1 novel of your choosing and complete the attached Book Report questions and write a book report AND complete the Poetry questions for "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes.

**Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders** read The Devil's Arithmetic and complete the attached discussion questions/essay AND complete the Poetry questions for "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes.

All discussion questions, essay work, and poetry work must be typed and submitted to Mrs. Villareal by August 28th either by email [avillareal@allsaintsacademy.org](mailto:avillareal@allsaintsacademy.org) or as hard copy (on first day of school). Please feel free to submit via email as you finish each selection. Enjoy your reading!

**Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

Read The Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Complete discussion questions for Bridge to Terabithia –this work must be typed

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HL\\_WDXfdQOq4exwd6aZ1Vge6onFH7S5L6Dr79hj91z0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HL_WDXfdQOq4exwd6aZ1Vge6onFH7S5L6Dr79hj91z0/edit?usp=sharing)

Read 1 novel of your choice

Complete Book Report for choice novel

Link for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade book report–

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IKdNnN3FW05njHKZCzHKtoAQTu\\_j6Yi-XQuWn\\_hdBY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IKdNnN3FW05njHKZCzHKtoAQTu_j6Yi-XQuWn_hdBY/edit?usp=sharing)

**Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

Read novel of your choice

Complete Book Report Questions and Write a report based on the questions for choice novel

Link for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade book report -

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13bR4ztf6gdbwXPEV57mID2MFt5pe6l15WNZk8hy-SYQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Complete "Mother to Son" poetry questions

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1972PD5ai4U65PGVmlQLlsU398QZRUG6pkqSs59ABs68/edit?usp=sharing>

**Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

Read The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Complete discussions questions for novel – this work must be typed

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LJDKcToVWbKYFm2aGwdvhuirPDE8IKCCbGttglWrRw/edit?usp=sharing>

Complete “Mother to Son” poetry questions

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1972PD5ai4U65PGVmlQLlsU398QZRUG6pkqSs59ABs68/edit?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts about a book(s), feel free to email me – I would love to hear from you!

Mrs. Villareal

[avillareal@allsaintsacademy.org](mailto:avillareal@allsaintsacademy.org)

## **Incoming Grade 8**

### **Discussion Questions - The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen**

**Type answers to #1-22 and complete the activities using your book and the knowledge you acquired from reading this book over the summer.**

- ANSWERS MUST BE TYPED IN COMPLETE SENTENCES WHERE APPLICABLE.
- Conventions are important so ensure you are using proper spelling, word usage, punctuation, and capitalization.
- Include PAGE NUMBERS for each question referring to where you found your answer.

1. Where is Hannah going at the beginning of the story? Why is this important to her culture?
2. What is Hannah's attitude about the previous event in question 1? What clues lead you to make this inference?
3. What are some traditions that her family incorporates into this event? List four.
4. What are the numbers on her grandfather's arm? What is the story about her and these numbers from the past?
5. What happens to Hannah when she opens the front door?
6. Where is Hannah now? What is her name? Who is she now with?
7. What is the new big event that is happening in Hannah's "new life"?
8. On the way to the wedding, Hannah meets some new friends. What are their names and why are they impressed by Hannah?
9. When they arrive at the synagogue what is the problem? What does Hannah know about this problem?
10. Why does the group finally go with the soldiers?
11. Describe what the journey is like on the trains. (At least 5 details)
12. What does Hannah have difficulty remembering?
13. How does Hannah show her compassion towards others when she arrives at the camp? List three details.
14. What was coincidental about the dress that Hannah chose? Why is her Hebrew name significant?
15. What happens to the children when the Commandant comes to visit?
16. Who is Rivka? How does she help Hannah?
17. How do the prisoners of the camp describe their numbers on their arms? What do the number signify for Hannah?
18. What does it mean to organize?
19. What is the choosing?
20. What is Gitls plan? Does it work?
21. What happens right before Hannah comes back to the present?
22. When Hannah comes back to the apartment what does she discover about Rivka?

Incoming 7th and 8th Grade

**Mother to Son by Langston Hughes**

Well, son, I'll tell you:

Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

It's had tacks in it,

And splinters,

And boards torn up,

And places with no carpet on the floor—

Bare.

But all the time

I've been a-climbin' on,

And reachin' landin's,

And turnin' corners,

And sometimes goin' in the dark

Where there ain't been no light.

So, boy, don't you turn back.

Don't you set down on the steps.

'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.

Don't you fall now—

For I've still goin', honey,

I've still climbin',

And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

- Langston Hughes

**Part A:** Refer to the poem to answer each of the following questions.

1. (1) Who is speaking? Who is the narrator speaking to? How do you know?
2. (1) What is meant by 'no crystal stair'?
3. (1) Has the narrator had an easy life? What evidence from this stanza supports your answer?
4. (1) The first stanza ends with the word 'bare'. Besides the stairs being bare, what else does the narrator mean is bare?
5. (2) When life is challenging, does the narrator give up? How do you know? What words tell you that answer?
6. (2) What is the symbolism in the phrase 'turnin' corners'?
7. (2) The narrator speaks of dark times. Is she speaking of only the light in the stairway or something more? If something, what is she referring to?
8. (3) What advice is the narrator offering? What words in this stanza of the poem provide you the answer?
9. (3) What does the narrator intend to do? How do you know?
10. (3) What is the significance of the metaphor '... life for me ain't been no crystal stair'?

**Part B - Paraphrase Each Stanza in your own words.**

**Stanza 1:**

**Stanza 2:**

**Stanza 3:**