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www.st-pats.org

**SUMMER READING, WRITING, AND MATH
2010 - 2011 SCHOOL YEAR – INCOMING GRADE 6**

All incoming **Grade 6** students will read the following **novel**:

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: Critical Thinking Short Essay

The **theme** is a central message in a literary work. It can usually be expressed as a general statement about human beings or about life. It is not a summary of the plot. Although a theme may be stated directly in the text, it is more often presented indirectly. The reader must figure out what the theme is by looking carefully at what the work reveals about people or about life.

There are several major **themes** in this novel. They include the following: **determination, courage, God and faith, loyalty, sacrifice, unconditional love, and family.**

After reading the novel, think about the themes listed here. Choose **ONE theme**. In a short essay, **explain why one or more characters demonstrate the theme you have chosen. Use specific examples from the novel in your explanation.**

Your essay should be **no longer than one page (three paragraphs)**, typed, double-spaced, using a 12 pt. font. It should have a **cover** illustrated with computer graphics or hand-drawn pictures. The **cover** should include your **name, grade, and the theme** you have chosen. Be sure to check spelling, punctuation, and grammar. The essay is due on the first day of school and will count as a Literature Test grade. Please hand it in to *Mrs. McGrath*.

In addition, all incoming sixth grade students will read the following **nonfiction book**:

Bionics by Judith Jango-Cohen

This book will introduce you to the **First Lego League 2010 Challenge** theme: “Engineering Meets Medicine.” Please visit the First Lego League website for more information (www.firstlegoleague.org). Be prepared to discuss the meaning of **biomedical engineering** in your science class. Do some independent research on this topic. There is no writing assignment.

MATH: Please complete the **Math Packet** that was given to you at the end of the school year. This assignment will be **due on the first day of classes** and will count as a Chapter Test grade. It should be handed in to your Math teacher. Also, **timed tests on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions** will be given **during the month of September.**

You are encouraged to read additional books during the summer and complete the **Summer Reading Book Log (see next page)**. Thank you and have a great summer!

Mrs. McGrath

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St. Patrick School
2010 Summer Reading Book Log – Grade 6

One of the joys of summer reading is the ability to read what truly interests you. You may choose to read any *age-appropriate* books **in addition to** the two required books. These books should have about **200 pages**. While the simple pleasure of reading is reward enough, you might enjoy having a goal to work toward. Therefore, if you read more than the two required books, you will receive one *Middle School Incentive Ticket* for every additional **200 pages you read (limit 10 tickets)**.

Please hand in this log to Mrs. McGrath on the first day of school.

Name of Student _____

Grade 6

TITLE	AUTHOR	NUMBER OF PAGES
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____

If needed, record additional books on a separate paper.

Total Pages = _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____