

# Summer Reading 2020

## Students Entering Grade 8

*Please read the instructions carefully.*

The following is a list of the required summer reading for 7<sup>th</sup> graders entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please make sure the reading assignments have been completed by the third Monday after returning to school. You will be required to complete the activities listed below. Do not procrastinate. You will be graded on these assignments for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. Please keep in mind that all of us need to work on our reading comprehension skills, and reading is the only way to do it. **In addition, at the beginning of the year several assignments will be based on the content of your summer reading, so please be sure to read. No excuses.**

Nothing can replace the experience of reading an actual book, but if you cannot get your hands on one, then PDFs are available online as well as audio recordings. Do not just listen to a book; to benefit from this learning experience, you must view the actual words as they are being read to you. Lastly, remember don't limit yourselves to just these books. Refer to the Shrewsbury Public Schools Summer Reading Lists (online) for suggestions. Divide your time between fictional and non-fictional literature. Most importantly, I hope you will concentrate on the developing a close connection with the Quran, Allah's book.

### ***A Day No Pigs Would Die (by Robert Newton Peck)***

Robert Peck lives with his family in rural Vermont where his illiterate father makes a living killing pigs. Dedicated to hard work and plain living, Haven Peck rears his son according to strict Shaker laws. For this reason, Rob is an outsider at school, and often faces taunts and sneers from his schoolmates. Rob's only friend is Pinky, a pig given to him by his neighbor, Mr. Tanner, as a thank you for saving his cow. Read this novel to learn what becomes of Pinky and, of course, Robert. There is no summer assignment, but in September we will be using the book for a Socratic Discussion, which will require you to be familiar with the plot, characters, and setting.

**No Activity for this selection.**

***Turn the page...***

## ***The Pearl (by John Steinbeck)***

Like his father and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the gulf beds that once brought great wealth to the Kings of Spain and now provide Kino, Juana, and their infant son with meager subsistence. Then, on a day like any other, Kino emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security....

### **Activity: Notes and Connection**

As the story evolves the pearl goes from a symbol of hope to a symbol of greed and finally a symbol of destruction. While reading, identify and record 15 quotes with page numbers that demonstrate this progression. Then search for two modern-day articles that highlight greed. These should be informational texts - a news story, opinion piece, etc. They should be current (2020); unfortunately, you will find many examples. Please read them and be prepared to discuss the two articles. Do not forget to save the links. At the start of the school year, I will provide a google doc for you to share them and your quotes with the class.

## ***And Then There Were None (by Agatha Christie)***

Agatha Christie's world-famous mystery thriller, involves ten strangers, apparently with little in common, who are lured to an island mansion off the coast of Devon by the mysterious U.N. Owen. Over dinner, a record begins to play, and the voice of an unseen host accuses each person of hiding a guilty secret. That evening, former reckless driver Tony Marston is found murdered by a deadly dose of cyanide. The tension escalates as the survivors realize the killer is not only among them but is preparing to strike again and again!

### **Activity: Vocabulary Word Pages and Notes**

As you read the mystery novel, keeping track of the many characters in your mind becomes challenging. **Record the name of each main character (12)**, including a characterization, **the crime they are accused of committing**, including the circumstances, **and how they are punished**. Then select 10 vocabulary words and create an electronic Word Page for each. You must choose words from the entire novel, not just the first half. Word Pages should contain the word, the definition, the part of speech, a visual depicting the meaning of the word, a sentence with context clues (requires a complex-compound sentence), synonyms, and antonyms. Do not choose nouns - only adjectives, adverbs, or verbs.

Have a fun and safe summer, God-willing!