

## Grace Christian School Eighth Grade Summer Reading List

Pre-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to read *Parallel Journeys* by Elanor Ayer, and then choose and read any two books from the list below (so students will read a total of 3 books this summer). We will briefly discuss and take a quiz on the required reading text (*Parallel Journeys*) when school resumes in August. Students, you will be required to write a one-paragraph summary for each book you read.

### Required Book:

#### ***Parallel Journeys* by Eleanor Ayer**

From this true story comes the incredible accounts of a female survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp who meets a former male member of the Hitler Youth movement. Through the recounting of their war experiences, as well as how they met forty years later, the reader must face history in order to realize and appreciate what the generation of our grandparents and great-grandparents fought against and sacrificed their lives for, learning the lesson that good things can come out of bad things, as well as the warning that “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

### Book Choices:

#### ***The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom**

From the true story of Corrie ten Boom and the efforts she and her sister made to save Jews during World War II comes the incredible account of courage, faith, and the miraculous in the face of fear and one of the most trying times humanity has ever faced.

#### ***The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells**

This science fiction book chronicles the events of a Martian invasion and explores the theme of faith in the midst of utter chaos when all else fails.

## ***White Fang* by Jack London**

*White Fang* is the adventurous, enduring story of one wolf-dog's journey to becoming civilized after being rescued from his brutal owner and becoming domesticated through the kindness and patience of his new owner, Weedon Scott.

## ***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien**

Published in 1937 and written by British author, J.R.R. Tolkien, this children's fantasy novel, which was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and awarded the prize from the New York Herald Tribune for the best juvenile fiction of the year in 1938, as well as for being recognized as "Most Important 20<sup>th</sup> Century Novel for Older Readers" in the Children's Books of the Century Poll, is the story of a seemingly inconsequential and rather predictable little hobbit named Bilbo Baggins whose life is one day interrupted by a visit from a wizard named Gandalf and thirteen dwarves who lead him on the adventure of a life-time.

## ***The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain**

When young Edward VI of England and a poor boy who resembles him exchange places, each learns something about the other's very different station in life.

## ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

This story follows the many adventures of one mischievous young boy and his friends while growing up in a nineteenth century Mississippi River town.

## ***The False Prince* by Jennifer Nielsen**

In the discontented kingdom of Carthya, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince.

## ***The Pearl* by John Steinbeck**

This story explores the theme of greed when a poor fisherman stumbles upon a priceless pearl and dreams of wealth and happiness for his family.

## ***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle**

This young adult science fiction and fantasy novel, published in 1962 and a winner of the Newbery Medal, the Sequoyah Book Award, and the Lewis Carrol Shelf Award, as well as the runner-up for the Hans Christian Anderson Award, is the story of how a midnight visitor escorts Meg, her friend, Calvin, and her brother, Charles, across the barriers of space and time to another world.

## ***Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen**

From the famous author who brought you *Hatchet*, comes the adventurous and suspenseful story of Samuel, a thirteen-year-old boy growing up in 1776 Pennsylvania, who learns to fend for himself in unexplored woods as he searches for his parents.

## ***Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott**

This timeless classic follows the lives, loves, and hardships of the four very different March sisters who while living with their mother in New England await the return of their father from the Civil War.

## ***Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell**

Based on a true story, Scott O'Dell's Newbery Medal-winning classic is a gripping tale of survival, strength, and courage. This work of historical fiction tells the story of 12-year-old Karana, who is stranded alone on an island and must figure out how to survive.

## ***Journey to the Centre of the Earth* by Jules Verne**

Originally published in 1864, this story is one that is sure to lead readers on an epic subterranean expedition as Axel and his uncle, Otto Lidenbrock, a cranky but endlessly curious geology professor, discover an encrypted message in an old Icelandic book that contains secret directions that lead to a world hidden beneath the Earth's surface.