



**St. Francis Cathedral Middle School
Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

Due Wednesday, September 1, 2010

Read two books from this list:

1. Come A Stranger by Cynthia Voigt
2. Tangerine by Edward Bloor
3. Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
4. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
5. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Then, choose **one** of the two books that you read and write an essay. Each paragraph should be between 5-10 sentences, *no less than five sentences* based on the following criteria:

Paragraph One: Write a summary of the plot of the book. Describe the events in the order that they occurred in the book.

Paragraph Two: Describe three things you liked about the book and why. Be specific and use examples from the book.

Paragraph Three: Choose your favorite character. Describe what your character looks like (if this is not described in the book, how do you picture them?), how your character acts and why that character is your favorite. Use examples from the story to support your opinions.

Paragraph Four: What lesson can be learned from the book? How can this lesson be applied to a middle school student's life? **Give examples.**

After completing the essay, complete the following activity:

Design a book "jacket". The cover should display the title of the book, author, and an illustration(s) that are related to the story. The illustration can be done by you or found on the computer, it must relate to the book, and color is preferred (not a black and white drawing). The back cover should be "About the Author", with a picture and three-four sentences about him or her. Please be sure not to plagiarize; research the author and put it in your own words! Use 8 1/2 x 11 paper for your book jacket and mount both pages on construction paper.

Requirements

- All essays should be typed using Times New Roman or Arial, 12 pt, black and white **only**. Do not add any graphics to your essay. Please double-space your essay!
- *Staple* this sheet to your project (behind your essay).
- Your name and class must appear on the lower-right corner of your book jacket or poster.
- Book jacket: *Staple* your essay between the front and back cover.
- Poster paper is not permitted for the book jacket!
- Be creative and have fun!

*****Never fear ...when you return to school we will complete an assignment for the second book you read.**