Name: _____

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Rising 8th Grade Students and Parents,

Research has continued to show that summer reading helps to improve vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinkings skills necessary to begin the school year with a strong foundation. It is also a wonderful way to learn more about yourself and the world around you through the stories of both fictional characters and historical figures. Please choose **two books** to read this summer. Be prepared to share what you have read with the class (no slides required) and take a quiz on **both** books in the first week of school. These grades will be included in the first quarter grade for Literature class.

1. **Choose ONE of the following books to read and complete the attached writing assignment.** Answer the questions in your **own** words while abiding by the SMS academic honesty policy (no internet or AI usage).

- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
- *The Outlaws of Ravenhurst* by Sr. M. Imelda Wallace S.L.
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- *The Lord of the Rings (any book in the trilogy - The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, The Return of the King)* by J. R. R. Tolkien
- *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok

2. **Choose a SECOND book of your choice that is suitable for your grade level.** You may choose another one of the books listed above. A book not on the above list must have an Accelerated Reader quiz available (https://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx). No written assignment is required for the second book, but you will be expected to pass an Accelerated Reader quiz on it during the first week of school.

Know of my prayers for you this summer, and I look forward to seeing you in the new school year!

God bless,

Sister Maria Trinity

Writing

Directions: You may choose to read the books listed above for the following writing assignment. Please make sure that you thoroughly describe the following plot elements in **complete sentences**. Each element requires multiple sentences or a short paragraph to fully answer.

Plot

Setting: Thoroughly describe where the story takes place and information on its time period.

Point of View: State whether the story is told in first-person, third-person limited, or third-person omniscient point of view. Cite evidence (a quotation) from the text that shows this point of view.

Main characters: Identify and fully describe a minimum of **two** main characters in the story. Be sure to include both direct (stated) and indirect (implied) character traits in your descriptions.

1.

2.

Conflict: Describe and explain the most important question or problem the main character faces.

Main events: Identify and describe a minimum of three significant events. Be sure to describe them chronologically and include important details.

1.

2.

3.

Climax: Describe the most exciting, emotional, or suspenseful part of the novel. It should occur after the last event described above and before the resolution. It is the point at which the outcome of the conflict is decided.

Resolution: Describe the ending. Include information about what happened to the main characters.

Theme: Describe a lesson about life that you learned from reading the novel. Be sure to explain how the message is shown through events in the story.

Literary Critique: Write your evaluation and judgment of the book. Any literary element, from setting to point of view, may contribute to your literary critique, in addition to plot, character, and theme.