

## COVENANT CLASSICAL SCHOOL

### 5TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

**Directions:** Choose two books from the book list: one historical fiction and one classic. Write a report form for each book. (See 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Report Form)

*Abraham Lincoln: The Great Emancipator* by Augusta Stevenson: Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. This book tells about his childhood experiences and his election to the presidency. In one part of the story, Abe is nine years old and learns to walk in the woods without even breaking a twig so that he can follow animal's trails without leaving any tracks! This book about a real life hero is filled with adventure.

*The Black Stallion* by Walter Farley: Alex survives a shipwreck and becomes the sole owner of a wild black Arabian. The stallion's slow taming and their hard work together around the track make for an exciting story. This is the first book in a long series by Walter Farley. However, readers might want to avoid books added to the series by Walter's son Stephen, since he has unfortunately added some explicit violence and has changed the themes of the books so that they do not resemble his father's originals.

*Children of the Storm* by Natasha Vins: Children of the Storm recounts Natasha's father's imprisonment, her schooling and questioning of Christianity, and all that happened to them in the years of Soviet crackdown of Biblical Christians. Fast-moving, very interesting, well-written.

*Davy Crockett: Hero of the Wild Frontier* (Discovery Biography) by Elizabeth R. Moseley: Davy was a frontiersman who did not like being hemmed in. As the frontier moved west, he moved his family west, too. He was in Texas picking out new farm land when the Mexican army marched on the Alamo. He joined the Texans in their fight for independence. This exciting book is about a real hero.

*Escape from Warsaw* by Ian Serrailer: Another title discovered in the Book Tree. On a cold, dark night in Warsaw in 1942, the Balicki children watch in horror as Nazi Storm Troopers arrest their mother. Now they are alone and food and shelter are hard to find. Finally, they get word that their father is alive and in Switzerland. See what happens next.

*Gone-Away Lake* by Elizabeth Enright: Portia and Julian are cousins who love to explore during the summer. When they find a swamp, all that is left of a former lake, they discover a forgotten community of old houses. They also meet some new friends and open up a wonderful summer of adventure. *Return to Gone-Away* is a sequel. Enright's wholesome themes and richly detailed writing won her a Newbery Medal for *Thimble Summer*, a cheerful story of summer life on a Wisconsin farm, set in the 1940's.

*The Good Master* by Kate Seredy: In this 1935 Newbery Honor book, Seredy writes and illustrates a story of a family in Budapest, Hungary. The sequel, *The Singing Tree*, takes the family through World War I. Jancsi and Kate work together as they manage Jancsi's father's farm which is a refuge for relatives, Russian POW's, and German war orphans.

*The Great Turkey Walk* by Kathleen Karr: Orphan Simon Green was not considered smart. His teacher graduated him from third grade after he spent four years there. Thinking he may spend four years in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Simon comes up with a plan. He buys the neighbor's 1000 turkeys and decides to walk them to Denver where there was supposed to be a market for "bronze" turkeys. Simon learns a lot on his travels! This is a fun-loving book. The reader will come to love Simon and cheer for him along the way.

*The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom: A true story of the Ten Boom family who lived in Holland. They helped save the lives of countless Jewish families during World War II.

*If I Perish* by Esther Kim: Thinking of WWII we immediately think of Nazi Germany. Did you know of the savage persecution of Christians in Japan? Ahn Ei Sook, a young Korean teacher, refused the command to bow to a pagan shrine. After months on the run she was captured and imprisoned. Read the remarkable true story of her faith.

*Indian Captive* by Lois Lenski: Twelve year old Mary Jemison took her peaceful days on her family's farm in eastern Pennsylvania for granted. In 1758 something happened that changed her life forever. A band of warriors invaded the house and took the Jemison family captive. A Newbery Award winner.

*The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks: Omri, an English boy, is disappointed at receiving a small plastic Indian and an old medicine cabinet for his birthday until he discovers that by locking the Indian in the cabinet, it magically comes to life. After the initial thrill wears off, Omri is confronted with the responsibility of taking care of his fiercely independent new friend. This is an exciting tale of kindness, self sacrifice, and respect. There are five books in this series. Also, all five are available as books on tape, superbly read by the author with voices for each individual character.

*Jump Ship to Freedom* by James Lincoln Collier. By rights, young Daniel Arabus and his mother, slaves in Captain Ivers's house in Connecticut should be free. Daniel's father, Jack, had served in the Revolution and, according to the law, was entitled to his freedom. A true story.

*The Kidnapped Prince* by Olaudah Equiano is an autobiography. He was kidnapped as a young boy in Africa in 1755 and carried off to slavery. He had a series of journeys that would take him halfway around the world—and a struggle for freedom that would make him famous. An amazing story.

*Lassie Come Home* by Eric Knight: This most famous of all animal stories is an action packed saga of diligence, love, and courage as Lassie escapes from the wealthy Duke of

Rudling and makes her slow and hazardous way across hundreds of miles to the boy she loves.

*National Velvet* by Enid Bagnold: A story of a girl and her beloved horse. Fourteen-year-old Velvet Brown is determined to turn her untamed piebald horse into a champion and to personally ride him in the greatest steeplechase in the world, the Grand National. A sequel, *International Velvet*, continues the tale. Both books have been made into movies.

*Rifles for Waitie* by Harold Keith: is about a 16-year-old boy, Jeff Bussey, who travels a 4-year journey from young adulthood to manhood via the conflicts of the Civil War in the Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Cherokee Nation territories. Jeff's vision of fighting in the war is one of a glorified adventure; however, he finds he is in for a rude awakening.

*Robert E. Lee Gallant Christian Soldier* by Roddy Lee, Civil War US (Sower Series)

*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr: This is a touching and lyrical biography of Sadako Sasuki, a Japanese girl who dies from leukemia ten years after the bombing of Hiroshima. This tale of courage, love, and friendship will tug at your heart. A parent may want to preview this poignant story, especially if a child is dealing with recent grief.

*Seaward Born* by Lea Wait. Thirteen year-old Michael knows he is lucky. Few slaves in 1805 Charleston are where they want to be. But Michael works on the docks and ships in Charleston Harbor, close to the seas he longs to sail.

*The Slave Ship* by Emma Gelders Sterne. Kidnapped from Africa, a group of men, women, and children are held in chains aboard the schooner *Amistad*. Only a boy named Ka-le knows the secret that could free them all. A true story.

*The Spy Who Came in from Sea* by Peggy Nolan: Travel gives us opportunity to frequent different bookstores. We especially like the local sections for less-known authors. This book is a clear example. Based on a true story of German spies along the Florida coast, this fast-paced tale will keep you turning the pages to its action-packed conclusion. Great for boys and girls.

*Stonewall* by John J. Dwyer: *Stonewall* is a powerful work of historical fiction that reveals many little-known facts about this extraordinary soldier as it vividly dramatizes the romantic, brutal, and glorious life of one of the war's greatest heroes. This penetrating look at the man behind the myth follows Stonewall on his spiritual pilgrimage to become a devoted husband, a faithful Christian, and one of the greatest tacticians in military history.

*The Story of Doctor Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting: Doctor Dolittle loves animals. He can understand their languages and usually treats them as peers. His many hilarious and odd

adventures are set in Britain and fill about a dozen books.

*Thunder at Gettysburg* by Patricia Lee Gauch: Based on an actual autobiographical account, a 14-year-old girl named Tillie is taken to a neighbor's farm for safety but finds herself in the middle of the Battle of Gettysburg as it erupts around her. While the book may be short in length (only 48 pages), Gauch's poignant poetic description of a battlefield and Gammell's solemn black-and-white drawings are definitely not aimed at beginning readers.

*The Wheel on the School* by Meindert DeJong: Lina and her five boy classmates in a Dutch village are given a problem to solve. Why are there no storks in Shora? In the solving the whole village grows in their appreciation of each other and a new love for the older folks. This Newbery Award winner has heartwarming dialogue, and the charming illustrations by Maurice Sendak portray a vivid picture of Dutch life. See also *House of Sixty Fathers*, *Journey from Peppermint Street*, *Dirk's Dog Bello* and many others.

*The Wright Brothers Inventors, They Gave Us Wings* by Charles Ludwig (Sower Series)