Queen of Apostles Middle School Summer Reading Guidelines – 8th Grade

Please follow all guidelines carefully!

Students entering eighth grade have one required novel to read and one chosen from the list below. In addition, there is a project component for each of the two novels read.

PART 1

REQUIRED:
The Odyssey, Homer   (AN ABRIDGED VERSION)

ASSIGNMENT: Choose **one** of the essay topics below and write a 4 – 5 paragraph essay.

- Examine the ways in which it can be said that Homer's *The Odyssey* is a heroic journey that is both physical and spiritual in nature. Specifically, what is the purpose of the journey, and what lessons are learned on it? What is Homer's message?

OR

- Discuss the value of loyalty within Odysseus' world. To what extent are our main characters loyal to one another? What are the consequences of disloyalty? How does Homer develop his message?

PART 2

CHOOSE **ONE** OTHER NOVEL FROM THIS LIST:

- *A Study in Scarlet*, Arthur Conan Doyle
- *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, Jules Verne
- *The Raft*, Robert Trumbull (Naval Institute Press)
- *Incredible Victory*, Walter Lord
- *Mr. Midshipman Hornblower*, C.S. Forester
- *The Long Walk*, Slavomir Rawicz
- *Swan Town*, Michael J. Ortiz
- *The Lantern Bearers*, Rosemary Sutcliff

ASSIGNMENT:

Bring your chosen optional summer reading book to class to show and talk about to your classmates during the first week of school. Get your classmates excited about reading it too!

In your presentation be sure to:

-Give the title and author of the book.

-Explain why this book is so great? How do the plot and/or the characters make the book interesting? Are there other elements make the book interesting?

-Quote a passage or two from the book to give your classmates a flavor of the book, *but don't give away the ending!*

**** **Note:** If you choose to create a PowerPoint presentation, feel free to e-mail it to me (s.mcmahon@queenofapostlesschool.org) and I will have it ready for you on the day you present. ****

BOTH PARTS ARE DUE THE FIRST WEEK OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR.