

**Concord Christian School
Middle School
Required Summer Reading 2019**

6th Grade (Standard and Honors)

Student will read two books:

Medallion by Dawn Watkins

And

One spiritual emphasis book from the following options (**with completed journal, see details on pg. 2**):

Take Your Best Shot by Austin Gutwein

A Girl after God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George

A Boy after God's Own Heart by Jim George

Little Pilgrim's Progress by Helen Taylor

Hinds Feet on High Places (Illustrated Edition) by Hannah Hurrand

7th Grade (Standard and Honors)

Student will read two books:

Standard - *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

Honors – *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

And

One spiritual emphasis book from the following options (**with completed journal, see details on pg. 2**):

Lose Your Cool by Zach Hunter

The Heavenly Man by Brother Yun

Lies Girls Believe by Dannah Gresh

Case for Faith Student Edition by Lee Strobel

8th Grade (Standard and Honors)

Student will read two books:

The Giver by Lois Lowry

And

One spiritual emphasis book from the following options (**with completed journal, see details on pg. 2**):

Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris

A Young Woman's Guide to Making Right Choices by Elizabeth George

A Young Man's Guide to Making Right Choices by Jim George

Case for Christ Student Edition by Lee Strobel

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom

2019 Journal Assignment for the Spiritual Emphasis Book

- 1) While reading, think about answers to the following questions:
 - a. How did the book make you see something in a different light?
 - b. How did the book help you understand something?
 - c. How did the book prompt you to re-evaluate your spiritual walk?
 - d. How did the book prompt you to change your behavior or attitude toward something?
 - e. How did the book support an idea you already had?
 - f. How did the book cause you to live that moment with the author?
- 2) Share your answers to the questions with your parent.
- 3) Write a 4 to 5 sentence paragraph to respond to **each** of the questions. You should have six (6) total paragraphs. Make sure you include complete sentences and well-thought out insight in your responses.
- 4) You may type the journal, if you choose.

EXAMPLE:

How did the book prompt you to change your behavior or attitude toward something?

I realized how often I am consumed with material things that we will not last forever. I thought about what the Bible says about storing up treasures in Heaven. I need to shift my focus to things the Bible says are eternal. The souls of people matter more than material possessions. I was reminded of how what I think is a must-have today will be out of date within a year or so. Hebrews 13: 8 tells me Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

- 6) Add a cover sheet which includes your name, the date, the title of the assigned book, and the author's name.

A Snapshot of the Required Summer Reading

6th Grade

Medallion by Dawn Watkins

Prince Trave lives in the royal city of Ganet, waiting for the day he can take his rightful place on Gadalla's throne. One day, a stranger arrives and tells Trave of a medallion that will prove his right to be king. With assistance from his new friend, Trave sets out on a quest to find the medallion. Throughout the journey, Trave realizes things are not as they seem.

7th Grade

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

This book explores the experiences of Brian, a thirteen-year-old boy in the Canadian wilderness, after a plane wreck where he is the only survivor. The story explores avenues of wealth, solitude, failures and successes, and teen rites of passage, while exposing some effects of divorce on children. The adultery of the mom is very sensitively handled in Brian's recollections. There are Biblical integration opportunities, including the warnings against using the Lord's name in vain. This Newbery Honor book transitions well to our short story writing project for the first semester as an excellent example of many of the basic elements of a truly memorable short story.

8th Grade

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The Giver is a young adult dystopian novel written by Lois Lowry in 1993. It explores life in a community in which choice has been eliminated. The novel presents themes on the value of the individual life and what it means to be human. There are multiple Biblical integration opportunities as we discuss the value of human life and free will. Parents who have had limited discussions with their child about euthanasia will want to read along and discuss with their child. Our study of this novel will introduce us to literary analysis, theme analysis, and writing to support your perspective which we will use throughout the school year.

Summary of Spiritual Emphasis Books

Which spiritual emphasis book should you choose? Check out these descriptions written by the MS teachers to help you decide.

Sixth Grade Options

Take Your Best Shot by Austin Gutwein

The book is written from Austin's point of view. It is not necessarily a boy book, because the central challenge is that we should find a need and meet it with our own passion. I like this book because Austin is actively serving and helping others as a missionary in Africa. Also, it is motivating for Christian teens to "do something" and not to wait for others or wait until they are older. Our students should be awakened to the many opportunities to serve others and be lights in a dark world for the glory of Jesus. There are a couple of sensitive topics in the book: the HIV epidemic and prostitution, so parents would want to know these issues are a part of the story.

A Girl after God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George

Elizabeth George breaks down issues that today's pre-teens are facing. She gives scripture to challenge the way God calls young girls to think and act in these specific areas (tidiness, parents, siblings, school work, and friends). *A Girl after God's Own Heart* provides questions that help develop a Godly way of responding to the challenges going on during this time in a girl's life. This book does not address anything about boys, dating, or sex, but does give some other good topics for rising middle school girls.

A Boy after God's Own Heart by Jim George

This interactive book is geared for today's pre-teen boys. An abundance of Scripture and questions challenge boys to think about key topics: school, family, friends, church, and time. This book does not address anything about girls, dating, or sex, but does give some other good topics for rising middle school boys.

Little Pilgrim's Progress by Helen Taylor

Pilgrim's Progress is a classic that has been translated into over 200 languages, has never been out of print, and stands as an extremely significant religious work. *Little Pilgrim's Progress* is the adapted version of the original literary work written specifically for 8-12 year olds. The book is an allegory and walks the believer through his spiritual journey until he reaches heaven. Using creative storytelling, the struggles and journey of walking with Jesus comes to life. Students who read this book can see so much of themselves in Christian's struggles and find tools to fight victoriously in the spiritual journey God has called them to walk.

Hind's Feet on High Places (Illustrated Edition) by Hannah Hurrand

Young Christian, do you ever struggle with fear, anxiety, doubt, or insignificance? This book may be a wonderful help to encourage you in your walk with the Lord. God has called you to confidence in His great Name. He is the One who enables us to walk with power, peace, grace, and victory. *Hind's Feet*, written as an allegory, follows the journey of a young lady named Much Afraid. Much Afraid learns to conquer her fears and be steadfast in her faith as she journeys to freedom from being bound by fear, anxiety, doubt, and insignificance and into a place of confidently walking out all that God has called her to do. This book is designed as a simple but powerful illustration of how we allow small things to control us in big ways. Each chapter has devotions that would be well served for both parent and child to experience together.

Seventh Grade Options

Lose Your Cool by Zach Hunter

Zach Hunter was a teenage boy at the time of writing this book. He discovered his passion for a social injustice and began working to raise awareness and funds to challenge that injustice. He became a teenage activist to end modern day slavery. He writes to encourage other teenagers to find a passion and pursue ways to make a difference. By sharing stories of other people throughout history who have made a difference, teens will be encouraged to think of the abilities and opportunities they have to encourage change.

The Heavenly Man by Brother Yun

The Heavenly Man is powerful, and it is eye-opening for students to realize that it is a true story. Miracles really do happen, Jesus really is with us through hard times, things don't always go as we wish they would go, and God intervenes and guides us when we surrender to Him. Brother Yun's life parallels the Apostle Paul's. There are some difficult events as he endures torture, but he also experiences God's supernatural sustaining and deliverance.

Lies Girls Believe by Dannah Gresh

This fun, easy-to-read book engages young girls in the twenty most important truths they need. This study allows girls to solve problems using fun sidebars and it's packed with wisdom, quizzes, games, exploded quotes, and graphics to help absorb the message. Girls will learn how to equip themselves with the Biblical truth needed to combat the lies of the world. This book addresses common lies about God, how you view yourself and family, sin, friendship, the future and more. Young girls will discover the lies that they have been believing and learn how to uproot the lies with God's truth. This book also addresses lies about being a girl and lies about boys. The chapter, *Lies about Being a Girl* focuses on God's truth that two different genders were created and being a female is something to celebrate and embrace. The chapter, *Lies about Boys* focuses on the ability to say "no" to boy craziness and the need to always seek wise advice. *Lies Girls Believe* is designed with 14 chapters to help young girls live the way God meant for them to live --- Free! *A Mom's Guide to Lies Girls Believe* is an available book for moms to read to walk alongside their daughters and help facilitate discussions.

Case for Faith Student Edition by Lee Strobel

I recommend this book very highly. It is a concise and slightly simplified version of the classic book by Strobel. It is divided into short chapters and simple charts that would both be easy to read over the summer and springboard discussions in class. The question and answer format is very effective. It is superb - very profound, yet the student version here is very easy to read and very straightforward.

Eighth Grade Options

Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris

The purpose of this book is to free teens from the shackles on their minds placed there by society and their own low expectations. The Harris twins give readers a historical glimpse of what the age of adolescence was meant to be versus what it has become and why. The authors then attempt to motivate and inspire readers by looking at the lives of famous teens from history (George Washington, David Farragut, and Clara Barton), as well as modern-day young people who have aspired to and who have done hard things in order to fulfil God's purposes in their lives.

A Young Woman's Guide to Making Right Choices by Elizabeth George

A Young Woman's Guide walks through challenges and temptations today's teenage girls face. Elizabeth George focuses on the importance of good choices in areas such as clothing, eating, gossip,

friends, education, and relationship with boys. The book is packed with Biblical examples and scriptures that will challenge ladies to make Godly choices. Chapter 10 and 11 discuss sexual, mental, and physical purity as a treasure.

A Young Man's Guide to Making Right Choices by Jim George

A Young Man's Guide follows a fictional teen boy as he makes choices in everyday life. The book is packed with Scripture and descriptions about the importance of good choices. Boys will be challenged to think about basic choices that can lead to a godly life. Chapter 9 discusses choices in relationships with girls, and Chapter 10 discusses temptation. The main character is faced with a choice about pornography. This issue is handled in a way that is appropriate for a rising 8th grader, but will be best discussed with a parent as well.

Case for Christ Student Edition by Lee Strobel

I would strongly recommend this book. It is a concise and slightly simplified version of the classic book by Strobel. It is divided into short chapters and simple charts that would both be easy to read over the summer and springboard discussions in class. The question and answer format is very effective. The entire book could be read in one to three sessions. This would be a great basis for introduction to apologetics.

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom

This book follows Corrie's life as a child and through adulthood and explores her and her family's ministry throughout Nazi Holland. She and her family are arrested for providing food stamps to Jews when they were really hiding Jews who ended up getting away. God's fingerprint is littered throughout this story, and it nearly made me cry every time she saw God's faithfulness and sovereignty and remembered how they were suffering but how Jesus suffered already for us. Inspiring and well written. Definitely a book that young people should read!

Concord Christian School
Middle School
Recommended Summer Reading

Fiction

The League and the Lantern, Brian Wells (4.8)
Child of the Mountains, Marilyn Sue Shank (4.7)
Crow, Barbara Wright (5.4)
Forge, Laurie Halse Anderson (5.4)
Ginger Pye, Eleanor Estes (6.0)
Hattie Ever After, Kirby Larson (4.6)
Heart of a Samurai, Margi Preus (5.4)
Hold Fast, Blue Balliett (5.2)
In Front of God and Everybody, K.D. McCrite (4.9)
Jefferson's Sons, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (3.9)
The Mighty Miss Malone, Christopher Paul Curtis (4.7)
Navigating Early, Clare Vanderpool (5.2)
Okay for Now, by Gary Schmidt (4.9)
The Secret Garden (unabridged), Frances Hodgson Burnett
Theodore Boone: the Accused, John Grisham (5.7)
Wonderstruck, by Brian Selznick (5.4)
What Katy Did (unabridged), Susan Coolidge (7.4)
White Fang (unabridged), Jack London (7.4)

Nonfiction

A Voice of Her Own: the Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Kathryn Lasky (5.9)
Eric Liddell: Something Greater Than Gold, Janet Benge (7.0)
The Girl Who Survived: a True Story of the Holocaust, Bronia Brandman (6.3)
How They Croaked: the Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous, Georgia Bragg (6.8)
Lincoln's Last Days, Bill O'Reilly (7.5)
Through My Eyes (Young Readers Edition), Tim Tebow (6.2)