

Name: _____

St. Joseph Middle School 8th Grade Summer Reading Packet

Dear Parents and Incoming 8th Graders,

We are looking forward to beginning next year with a running start on your upcoming 2010-2011 school year. Therefore, we are giving you **two** summer reading assignments that will be discussed the first week of school. Reading is key to academic success, and most research suggests that students should be reading 4-5 days a week for at least an hour by the time they reach 6-8th grade, including over the summer! Reading improves content knowledge, promotes vocabulary acquisition, improves critical thinking, and fosters well-crafted writing.

1. Throughout summer vacation you will need to read **either** *The Ransom of Mercy Carter* by Caroline B. Cooney, or *The Story of Mary Jamieson* by Lois Lensky. You must also complete (typed or hand-written) this packet, which is intended to guide your reading and focus your thoughts. This assignment is due in your Literature/LA class on the **first full day of school** and we will be using it as a basis for assignments and discussion.

Books are available at the Seattle and King County libraries as well as at any of the online or local bookstores. Audio-tapes are also available online at Audiofile, Bestbookbuys, Fetchbook, and Recorded Books. Additionally, you may simply order it from your local bookstore or check it out from your local library, though you may want to reserve it ahead of time to ensure access.

2. We would like to give you an opportunity to read a book of your choice as this fosters a love of reading. Included in this packet are some reader's response questions for you to complete in preparation for a literature discussion in the fall.

Happy Summer Vacation and Happy Reading!
Sincerely,

Mr. Reykdal and Ms. Taylor

P.S. If you misplace this packet, you may go to the St. Joseph website and print off another.

