

Our Lady of the Lake
Grade 8
2010 Summer Reading Assignment

Across Five Aprils - Irene Hunt: An account of the horrifying events of the Civil War that changed an Illinois farm family.

All 8th grade students are required to read this novel. Please take notes while you read, as we will begin the year discussing the main elements of this novel and relating it to historical events. Please choose two additional books to read from the list below:

1. The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman - Earnest I Gaines: This is a novel giving the recollections of a one hundred and ten-year-old black woman; born a slave, she lives to see the black militancy of the 1960's.
2. Eragon- Christopher Paolini: In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy named Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
3. Forgotten Fire - Adam Bagdasarian: Drawing on his own great-uncle's experiences, Bagdasarian covers the years 1915-1918 when a boy from a wealthy, well-respected family from Bitlis, Turkey, is stripped of everything simply because he is Armenian.
4. Johnny Tremain - Ester Forbes: This is the story of a tragically injured silversmith who ends up hip-deep in the American Revolution.
5. Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie: The best-loved and best-known of all of Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot mysteries, Poirot has a wealth of suspects to choose from when a wealthy American is stabbed to death en route to Paris on the Orient Express.
6. The Summer of My German Soldier - Bette Greene: When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, twelve-year-old Patty Bergen learns what it means to open her heart.
7. Walk Two Moons - Sharon Creech: After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend whose mother also left.

Complete each of the graphic organizers, both the book review and the story map, for the three books. These worksheets will be due on Tuesday, September 7.