

## Savannah Classical Academy Summer Reading Requirements

### Rising Seventh Graders

1. Poem memorization. Memorize the poem “Life is Fine” by Langston Hughes (See back). Be ready to recite by the first day of school.

2. Choose any TWO books from the list below. You can find each book on Amazon, at bookstores, or at the public library. In seventh grade, you will learn about the Victorian Era, the Great Depression, and WW11. Many of these books are about or were written in one of these time periods. (The public library may only have a few copies.) Be ready to write about each book by the first day of school.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b> (from Scholastic.com)	Lexile
<p><b><i>A Wrinkle in Time</i></b> by Madeline L’Engle</p>	<p>Everything is wrong in Meg Murray's life. In school, she's been dropped down to the lowest section of her grade. She's teased about her five-year-old brother, Charles Wallace, who everyone mistakenly thinks is dumb.</p> <p>Surely her miserable life will be better when her father gets back. Meg's physicist father had been experimenting with time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. One dark and stormy night, Meg, Charles Wallace, and their new friend, Calvin O'Keefe, begin a dangerous quest through space to find their father. In doing so, they must face an evil power that is darkening the cosmos.</p>	740
<p><b><i>Bud, Not Buddy</i></b> by Christopher Paul Curtis</p>	<p>It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but he's on a mission. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: posters of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression! Bud's got an idea that those posters will lead to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him.</p> <p><i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> is full of laugh-out-loud humor and wonderful characters, hitting the high notes of jazz and sounding the deeper tones of the Great Depression.</p>	950
<p><b><i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i></b> (Sherlock Holmes)</p>	<p>At Baskerville Hall on the grim moors of Devonshire, a legendary curse has apparently claimed one more victim. Sir Charles Baskerville has been found dead. There are no signs of violence, but his face is hideously distorted with terror. Years earlier, a hound-like beast with blazing eyes and dripping jaws</p>	1090

<p>by Author Conan Doyle</p>	<p>was reported to have torn out the throat of Hugo Baskerville. Has the spectral destroyer struck again?</p> <p>Enter Sherlock Holmes. As Holmes and Watson begin to investigate, a blood-chilling howl signals that the legendary hound of the Baskervilles is poised for yet another murderous attack.</p>	
<p><b><i>The Red Badge of Courage</i></b>  by Stephen Crane</p>	<p>Young Henry Fleming had always dreamt of performing heroic deeds in battle. But the reality, as a raw recruit in the Civil War, is a mental and physical torment. And as Henry fights inner battles with fear, self-doubt, and trauma throughout his first harrowing battle, he has no idea whether war will make him a coward, a hero -- or a man.</p>	500
<p><b><i>Number the Stars</i></b>  by Lois Lowry</p>	<p>As German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family tries to save her best friend, by pretending she's part of the family. Will the Danish people be able to save their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis?</p>	670
<p><b><i>Code Talkers: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two</i></b>  by Joseph Bruchac</p>	<p>Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years.</p> <p>But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker (description from Amazon.com)</p>	910
<p><b><i>Summer of My German Soldier</i></b>  by Betty Greene</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Patty Bergen, a Jewish girl living in a small town in Arkansas during World War II, befriends a young German prisoner of war named Anton, who has escaped from a POW camp and is desperate for a place to hide. And he, like Patty, needs someone in his life whom he can trust. Patty risks everything and agrees to hide Anton until it's safe. As their friendship grows, she realizes that she's unable to label him a Nazi. The two grow closer and soon find the hope, strength, and love they're unable to find from others, but the risks they endure may be too much for them to bear.</p>	800

## Life is Fine

Langston Hughes, 1902 - 1967

I went down to the river,  
I set down on the bank.  
I tried to think but couldn't,  
So I jumped in and sank.

I came up once and hollered!  
I came up twice and cried!  
If that water hadn't a-been so cold  
I might've sunk and died.

*But it was Cold in that water! It was cold!*

I took the elevator  
Sixteen floors above the ground.  
I thought about my baby  
And thought I would jump down.

I stood there and I hollered!  
I stood there and I cried!  
If it hadn't a-been so high  
I might've jumped and died.

*But it was High up there! It was high!*

So since I'm still here livin',  
I guess I will live on.  
I could've died for love—  
But for livin' I was born

Though you may hear me holler,  
And you may see me cry—  
I'll be dogged, sweet baby,  
If you gonna see me die.

*Life is fine! Fine as wine! Life is fine!*

*A poet, novelist, fiction writer, and playwright, Langston Hughes is known for his insightful, colorful portrayals of black life in America from the twenties through the sixties and was important in shaping the artistic contributions of the Harlem Renaissance (Source: The Academy of American Poets, [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)).*