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*Loving to learn and learning to grow at... St. Mary's Catholic School*

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Dear Parents:

This summer, our middle school students will be doing something a bit different from the summer reading routine they may be used to. Each grade will be responsible for reading one book and preparing some work to go along with it, but rather than a second book, our rising 6th and 7th grade students will be practicing some math concepts on Prodigy Math, and our rising 8th grade students will be doing some standardized test preparation to ready themselves for the high school placement test, which takes place in December. We have some suggested timelines for completing both the test prep and the math practice so that students aren't overloading themselves just before school starts. There are also guidelines for the reading assignments as in years past.

Our hope is that our middle school students will be able to practice both their language arts and math skills over the summer to begin the year in stride. We have enjoyed our time with them in the classroom and look forward to meeting the upcoming members of the sixth grade. Have a great summer.

Sincerely,

St. Mary's Catholic School Middle School Team



Dear Parents,

The incoming sixth and seventh graders will be using an exciting educational game called Prodigy to practice their math skills. While we will be using the program during school hours, students are strongly encouraged to play with the same character at home during the summer to supplement their practice! We recommend 20 minutes a day Tuesday-Thursday during the month of July. When the students return to school in September, we will be checking to see that the students accomplished about 300 minutes over the summer. We will continue building on the skills they were working on over break throughout the school year.

### **How does my child play Prodigy at home?**

1. Go to [www.prodigygame.com](http://www.prodigygame.com) on almost any Internet enabled device.
2. Select 'Play Prodigy' in the top-right corner.
3. Once the game loads, enter your child's username and password and select 'LOGIN.'

Students should login with their Google accounts used at school. Students have the same login information throughout their duration at St. Mary's.

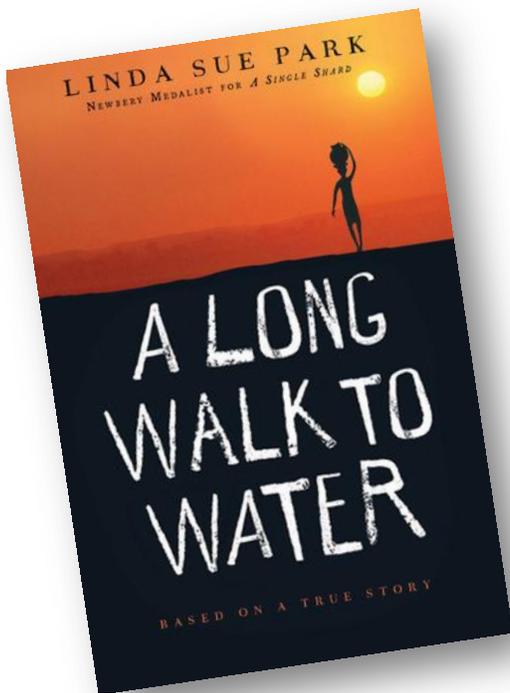
Sincerely,

St. Mary's Catholic School Middle School Team

## Summer Reading | Grade 6

### A Long Walk to Water

by Linda Sue Park



The New York Times bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two

eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in

2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya,

is fetching water from a pond that

is two hours' walk from her home:

she makes two trips to the pond

every day. The boy, Salva, becomes

one of the "lost boys" of Sudan,

refugees who cover the African

continent on foot as they search

for their families and for a safe

place to stay. Enduring every

hardship from loneliness to

attack by armed rebels to contact

with killer lions and crocodiles,

Salva is a survivor, and his

story goes on to intersect with

Nya's in an astonishing and moving

way. This book is based on the true life

experiences of Salva Dut who was born in Sudan and now

lives in Rochester, New York. < [activelylearn.com](http://activelylearn.com) >

Why I like this book: You'll get to know Nya & Salva very well as you walk with them on their journey for survival in a dangerous and stark environment. I like the connection between clean water and education, health and prosperity.

**A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park

**Post-reading Assignment**

1. In addition to providing clean water and schooling opportunities, how else will the well benefit the community?
2. Why is Nya surprised that a Dinka would be responsible for their well?
3. What clues did we have along the way that hinted at this ending? Write down at least two (2) clues + page numbers where you found them.
4. What is one possible **theme** (what you think the story is about or what the story says about the subject) for this story? Support your answer with specific answers from the text.
5. Look at the title of this book. How does it fit both Salva and Nya's journeys?