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May 21, 2014

Dear Harvest Families,

We are pleased to announce our summer required reading list and optional book club program. During the summer, we would like your student in the middle school class to read *The Life of the Spider* by Jean Henri Fabre, *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien, and chapters from *An/Our Island Story* by H. E. Marshall.

We have chosen these books with a couple of thoughts in mind. The middle school class is entering the years that transition to high school. They will start a thorough treatment of United States history, beginning with English history. They will spend the summer covering the period that students in a school like ours would have covered in the primary years. These books will tie into the historical times addressed next year.

Students in this class are expect to read a chapter and tell it to you. They must write a short narration in the reading journal provided. The more effort they put into their journal, the better they will be prepared for the curriculum next year. Those who keep a reading journal well will be referring to it often next year.

We are also offering an optional book club kicking off on Thursday, June 12 at 10:30 a.m. We will meet with you and your children at Santee National Wildlife Refuge for a nature walk. Afterwards, we will gather at the school for lunch and a class discussion of the three books. While this is not an event for dropping off your children, we will have enough staff to guide the conversation. Attached is the schedule we intend to follow for our program.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or email.

In His Service,

Angie Bruner

Subject	Title	Audio Book Hours	Rationale	Resources
Nature Study	<i>The Life of the Spider</i> by Jean Henri Fabre	8	Fabre has a vivid way of describing nature and this book will dovetail well with the Mirkwood spiders from <i>The Hobbit</i> .	This book is online for free with photographs at <a href="http://www.efabre.net/fabre/electronictexts/the-life-spider">http://www.efabre.net/fabre/electronictexts/the-life-spider</a> and LibriVox has a free audio book: <a href="https://librivox.org/life-of-the-spider-the-by-j-henri-fabre/">https://librivox.org/life-of-the-spider-the-by-j-henri-fabre/</a>
Middle School Class	<i>The Hobbit</i> by J. R. R. Tolkien	11	The time period covered in the school year will be the Middle Ages. Tolkien's goal was to create an Anglo-Saxon myth because the Norman Conquest wiped out nearly all their myths.	Mass market books are suitable if they are unabridged. The Kindle has an unabridged audiobook if you purchase the book edition.
History	<i>An Island Story</i> by H. E. Marshall (Chapters 1 to 50)	8	AO students would have listened to a read-aloud of these chapters in Years 2 and 3. Year 7 repeats English history (which leads to USA history). Reading these chapters will build background knowledge for Year 7. The primary class read half of this last year.	This book is online for free with photographs at <a href="http://www.mainlesson.com/display.php?author=marshall&amp;book=island&amp;story=contents">http://www.mainlesson.com/display.php?author=marshall&amp;book=island&amp;story=contents</a> and LibriVox has a recording at <a href="https://librivox.org/our-island-story-part-1-by-he-marshall/">https://librivox.org/our-island-story-part-1-by-he-marshall/</a>
<b>Nature Study</b>				
<b>Novel</b>				
<b>History</b>				
Jun 12	Spider: Tarantula (Ch. 1)	Hobbit: Party (Ch. 1)	Island: Albion to Queen (Ch. 1-5)	
Jun 19	Spider: Epeira & Lycosa (Ch. 2-3)	Hobbit: Mutton & Rest (Ch. 2-3)	Island: Romans to Hengist (Ch. 6-10)	
Jun 26	Spider: Lycosa (Ch. 4)	Hobbit: Hill & Riddles (Ch. 4-5)	Island: Dance to Read (Ch. 11-15)	
Jul 03	Spider: Lycosa (Ch. 5-6)	Hobbit: Party (Ch. 6)	Island: Cottage to Waves (Ch. 16-20)	
Jul 10	Spider: Exodus (Ch. 7)	Hobbit: Party (Ch. 7)	Island: Edward to William (Ch. 21-25)	
Jul 17	Spider: Crab & Garden (Ch. 8-9)	Hobbit: Party (Ch. 8)	Island: Death to Gilbert (Ch. 26-30)	
Jul 24	Spider: Garden (Ch. 10-11)	Hobbit: Barrels/Warm/Door (Ch. 9-11)	Island: Thomas to Arthur (Ch. 31-35)	
Jul 31	Spider: Garden (Ch. 12-13)	Hobbit: Inside & Not Home (Ch. 12-13)	Island: Charter to Chalons (Ch. 36-40)	
Aug 07	Spider: Garden & Labyrinth (Ch. 14-15)	Hobbit: Fire/Clouds/Thief (Ch. 14-16)	Island: Wales to Sluys (Ch. 41-45)	
Aug 14	Spider: Clotho & Web (Ch. 16-17)	Hobbit: Burst/Journey/Last (Ch. 17-19)	Island: Crecy to Lost (Ch. 46-50)	