

**ENGLISH SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT
INCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS
ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL JUNIOR HIGH
JUNE 2007**

Step one: Select and read one of the four novels listed below. (These are all great books, so you are encouraged to read as many of them as your summer reading time allows!)

- ❖ *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane
- ❖ *Childhood's End* by Arthur C. Clark
- ❖ *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel
- ❖ *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

Step two: Write a plot summary of about 200 words. . . Your own words!!!

Step three: Answer the following reader response questions.
Each response should be at least one well- developed paragraph of about seven sentences.

1. Who is your favorite character in the novel, and what is it about this character that you admire or find intriguing?
How can *you* relate to this character?

2. Select one character and explain how this character develops or changes throughout the novel. Mention the key events that contribute to this character's development. Describe what this character learns from his/her experiences.

3. Describe the major conflict in this novel. (The major conflict is the challenge, problem, dilemma or struggle presented in the story.)

4. What did you learn about life from this book? (A story's main message is called its theme and often teaches us something important or gives us insight into life.) How is the theme of this novel significant to you?

Your summary and responses must be typed (font size12) and double~spaced. This assignment is due the first day of school. Have a great summer!!!