

June 2026

Dear Parents,

At St. Paul School, the Administration and Faculty aim to prepare your child in the best way for their future.

To maintain and enhance your child's skills, enrichment work is being assigned for the summer months. Incoming 8th graders are being asked to read *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson *and* answer the questions listed either handwritten on lined paper **or** typed in Times New Roman 14-point font. Students will **also** choose one of the listed activities to complete and use as a cover sheet. These activities are a review of information covered in other subjects, such as Religion, Science, Social Studies and Art.

All questions will be collected during the first week of school and counted as an ILA project for the first marking period. Points will be deducted for each day the assignment is not turned in. During the first weeks of school, students will also review and take a test on the story, so please make sure that they are paying close attention to the title, author, plot, characters and theme as they are reading. It would be helpful if they had a copy of the book with them at school as well.

In addition to the ILA assignment, Mrs. Bifano is also asking the 8th-grade students to prepare for the upcoming school year by reading a biography on any modern saint (19th - 20th century). It must be a book with a title, published date, and an author; no internet sources will be accepted. Students should bring the book with them to school in September to write a biography for Religion class. For any questions about the assignment, please contact her at jbifano@stpaulbrl.org.

Your cooperation, interest, and support are vital. Please provide the proper encouragement and guidance so that your child will be able to achieve their potential and maintain and improve their skills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: mpugh@stpaulbrl.org.

Have an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Meghan Pugh

Summer Reading Project

Fever 1793 Book Report

This year in 8th grade we will be focusing on the various genres of literature (Folk, Historical Fiction, Nonfiction, Mystery, Poetry, Realistic Fiction, and Science Fiction). Over the summer, you will read Laurie Halse Anderson's *Fever 1793*, which is an example of Historical Fiction. Attached you will find some questions that you will answer as you read the story.

All work will be collected during the first week of school and counted as an ILA project for the first marking period. As always, remember that you will lose points for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation, so please proofread your work. Check to be sure that you are turning in **all** parts of the assignment, because points will be taken off your grade for every day that the assignment is late.

When you return to school, you will also take a test on the book, so please make sure that you are paying attention to the title, author, plot, characters and theme as you are reading! We will review in class as well, so please make sure you have a copy of the book with you.

Pick **one** of the following activities to complete along with the questions. This should be attached as a cover sheet. (10 points)

1. Visit Philadelphia & see some of the sites that are listed in the story. Find places that are named after or founded by the real characters. Take pictures of yourself by these landmarks and create a brochure identifying where you went and what you saw. (There are even tours of the city available, if you wanted to get a group together: www.theconstitutional.com/field-trips/yellow-fever-tour)
2. Create a chart to compare and contrast what Philadelphia experienced during the Yellow Fever outbreak in 1793 to your experiences during the first year of the COVID-19 outbreak. How did people react? What were the theories that people claimed about its origins? Do some research to determine which pathogens cause each and how they are transmitted to humans.
3. The Peale family included several generations of artists, and many of their works are on display in their own wing of the Philadelphia Art Museum. Visit the museum (or its website <https://www.philamuseum.org/> and search for the family name) to see some of their art. Many of them focused on portraits, starting with family members and moving on to the founding fathers. Pick **one** of their paintings and create your own version of it, using any physical medium, making sure to title it the same and include the original artist's work and name for comparison.

Answer the following questions after you read each chapter:

1. Chapter 3: Why does Mrs. Cook forbid Mattie to pay her respects to Polly's family or attend the funeral? How does Mattie react to this? Do you think Mattie should be allowed to pay her respects to Mrs. Logan? (3 points)
2. Chapter 5: **Irony** is a literary technique in which the full significance of a character's words or actions is clear to the reader, although unknown to the character. Why doesn't Matilda's mother like the boy Matilda has a crush on, and what is ironic about this? (2 points)
3. Chapter 8: If you were in Philadelphia at the time, would you stay like Grandfather or leave like many of the other families? Why? (2 points)
4. Chapter 9: What signs reveal that Mr. Rowley is incompetent and unfit to treat the sick? (2 points)
5. Chapter 10: What is Dr. Kerr's diagnosis & what does he prescribe for Mrs. Cook? (2 points)
6. Chapter 11: Are the men who prevent the Cooks from entering Pembroke justified in doing so? What could they have done to help without endangering the town? (2 points)
7. Chapter 16: What do both the clerk and Mrs. Bowles suggest Mattie do? What decision would you make if you were Mattie? Why? (3 points)
8. Chapter 18: How frequently does Mattie bathe? (1 point)
9. Chapter 22: What does Dr. Rush ask of the Free African Society? What was their response? (2 points)
10. Chapter 23: Even though this novel deals with a serious topic, there are humorous sections included. Why is the fate of the Ogilvie family humorous? Why do you think the author included this in the story? (2 points)
11. Chapter 25: A **symbol** in literature is an object, an event, or a character that represents an idea or a set of ideas. What does Blanchard's balloon symbolize for Mattie? Why does she think about it in her moment of despair? (2 points)
12. Chapter 27: Why does Joseph suggest that they hire a lawyer? Do you agree with him? Why or why not? (3 points)
13. Epilogue: The book has a circular ending; explain how the ending is similar to the beginning of the novel. (3 points)