

Middle School Summer Reading

8th grade American Studies Assignment:

You will read **TWO** books.

1. Choose ONE from the list below:

- *Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Green (World War II - love story)
- *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen (World War II - Holocaust time)
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis (racial unrest - 1960's)
- *Out of Dust* by Karen Hesse (Dust Bowl)
- *Little Women* by Louise May Alcott (Civil War time in the North)
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain (1830's along the Mississippi River)

Assignment: Write a one-page (typed) summary of the book. Include what makes the book historical fiction. Please do not write more than one page. The summary can be very brief, but make sure to include **what makes the book historical fiction!**

2. The other book you will read is *The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank*

Assignment: Write a one-page (typed) paper comparing Anne Frank's time in the annex to your life while under quarantine. Make sure you include similarities as well as differences.

Please email yblanton@valwood.org if you have any questions.

We look forward to a great year in American Studies!