**Independent Reading Circle Project Reading Assignments**

**\*with summaries from Amazon.com**

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*** by Mark Twain

“Mark Twain's classic novel, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, tells the story of a teenaged misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious.”

Week One: pages 2 – 90

Week Two: pages 91 – 184

Week Three: pages 185 – 338

***The Glass Castle*** by Jeannette Walls

“Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn non-conformity were both their curse and their salvation. Rex and Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money and disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals.”

Week One: pages 1-80

Week Two: pages 81-163

Week Three: pages 164-288

***The Secret Life of Bees*** by Sue Monk Kidd

“14-year-old Lily Owen, neglected by her father and isolated on their South Carolina peach farm, spends hours imagining a blissful infancy when she was loved and nurtured by her mother, Deborah. All Lily has left of Deborah is a strange image of a Black Madonna, with the words "Tiburon, South Carolina" scrawled on the back. When Lily's beloved nanny, Rosaleen, manages to insult a group of angry white men on her way to register to vote and has to skip town, Lily takes the opportunity to go with her, fleeing to the only place she can think of--Tiburon, South Carolina--determined to find out more about her dead mother.”

Week One: pages 1 – 82

Week Two: pages 83 – 213

Week Three: pages 214 – 302

***A Separate Peace*** by John Knowles

“The volatile world of male adolescence provides the backdrop for John Knowles' engrossing tale of love, hate, war, and peace. Sharing a room at Devon, an exclusive New England prep school, in the summer prior to World War II, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession, and the betrayal of trust.”

Week One: pages 1 – 63

Week Two: pages 64 – 129

Week Three: pages 130 – 196

***Slaughterhouse-Five*** by Kurt Vonnegut

“"Listen: Billy Pilgrim has become unstuck in time." So begins Vonnegut's absurdist 1969 classic. This is a sliced-and-diced narrative, which is part sci-fi and partially based on Vonnegut's experience as an American prisoner of war in Dresden, Germany during the firebombing of 1945 that killed thousands of civilians. Billy travels in time and space, stopping here and there throughout his life, including his long visit to the planet Tralfamador, where he is mated with a porn star.”

Week One: pages 1 – 51

Week Two: pages 52 – 135

Week Three: 136 – 215

***When the Emperor Was Divine*** by Julie Otsuka

“This novel tells the story of one Japanese American family's story of internment in a Utah enemy alien camp during World War II. We never learn the names of the young boy and girl who were forced to leave their Berkeley home in 1942 and spend over three years in a dusty, barren desert camp with their mother. Occasional, heavily censored letters arrive from their father, who had been taken from their house in his slippers by the FBI one night and was being held in New Mexico, his fate uncertain. But even after the war, when they have been reunited and are putting their stripped, vandalized house back together, the family can never regain its pre-war happiness.”

Week One: pages 1 – 48

Week Two: pages 49 – 105

Week Three: pages 106 - 144

***Fallen Angels*** by Walter Dean Meyers

“A coming of age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, Fallen Angels is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through. Sent to the front lines, Perry and his platoon come face-to-face with the Vietcong and the real horror of warfare. But violence and death aren't the only hardships. As Perry struggles to find virtue in himself and his comrades, he questions why black troops are given the most dangerous assignments, and why the U.S. is there at all. Fallen Angels won the 1989 Coretta Scott King Award.”

Week One: pages 1 – 126

Week Two: pages 127 – 196

Week Three: 197 – 263