

Ms. McCormick's Summer Reading List

Dear Future Fifth-Graders and Parents:

As you probably know, in fifth grade we study American history, from the colonial period to the Civil War. In September, we will start work on an essay to be entered in a contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. This year's topic is National Parks.

In order to prepare, please read ***National Geographic Kids National Parks Guide USA Centennial Edition: The Most Amazing Sights, Scenes, and Cool Activities from Coast to Coast!*** It is available for about \$10.00 at online booksellers and can also be found at local libraries. After you've read the book, make a list of the ten most interesting facts you learned. If you purchase your own copy of the book, please bring it to school on the first day.

Also, please read at least one **other** book, either fiction or nonfiction, from the list below. They will help you gain background knowledge about the American Revolutionary War:

- *Give Me Liberty* by L.M. Elliott
- *My Brother Sam Is Dead* by Christopher and James L. Collier
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- *The Winter of Red Snow* by Kristiana Gregory
- *A History of US: From Colonies to Country* by Joy Hakim
- *George Vs. George* by Rosalyn Schanzer

All these books should be available at your local library, at bookstores like Children's Book World on Pico, and online at booksellers such as Amazon. **Don't** reread a book you have read before. The first four suggestions are historical fiction; if you like nonfiction better, read one of the last two. The most challenging fiction choice is *Johnny Tremaine*; the most informative nonfiction choice is *From Colonies to Country*.

Perhaps you may travel with your family this summer to places where you could check out Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields, national monuments, homes of famous Americans, and other places of interest. You may even think about which of our "Fifty Nifty United States" you may choose to learn about next year.

I'm sure you'll also read other books this summer that you choose for yourself. You might want to consider keeping a journal to maintain your writing skills.

Have a wonderful summer vacation! See you in September!

-Ms. McCormick