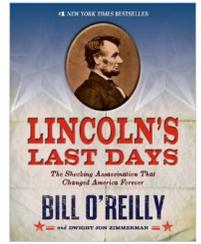
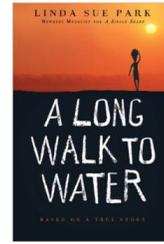
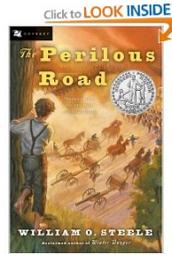
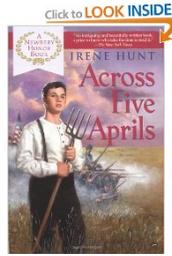


Summer Reading 2015  
**Junior High I & II**  
*Historical Fiction*



**Junior High I and II:**

Choose one of the following books to read:

*Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

*The Perilous Road* by William O. Steele

*Lincoln's Last Days* by Bill O'Reilly

*A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park

**Book Summaries:**

***Across Five Aprils***

This book “takes listeners from the first shots fired at Fort Sumter to Lincoln's assassination as seen through the eyes of a Southern Illinois farm boy. Jethro Creighton is nine when his close knit family learns that hostilities have broken out. As numerous male relatives go off to fight for the North and the South, and after his father falls ill, young Jethro takes responsibility for the family farm. With help from an older sister and neighboring farmers, he copes with attacks from local vigilantes, and he makes mature choices about a cousin who has deserted the army. Hunt artfully transforms her grandfather's childhood experiences into a powerful story of family love and the challenges of war. He also weaves a great deal of historical information into this Newbery Honor Book, and adds a generous measure of old-fashioned country wisdom as well.”  
– *From School Library Journal* (Amazon.com review)

***The Perilous Road***

This “Newbery Honor Award-winning book about the Civil War chronicles the tale of Chris Brabson, a young man who lives in Tennessee's mountain country and sides with the Confederates. He hates Yankees with all his heart because they've stolen from him and his family, leaving them with little food for the winter. They stand for everything that's gone wrong with his world. Then, to Chris's dismay and embarrassment, his older brother, Jethro joins up with the Union as a soldier. When Chris spots a Yankee wagon train and reports it, he expects the consequences will be immediate and shattering. The news that Jethro has become a wagon driver is almost more than Chris can bear, and he goes frantically searching among the Yankees for his brother. Along the way, he realizes that the Yankee soldiers are very similar to him and not the evil, hateful people he imagined.” – *From School Library Journal* (Amazon.com review)

***Lincoln's Last Days***

“This thrillerlike adaptation captures the excitement of the Union victory in the Civil War and the shock and horror that quickly followed as the country learned of Lincoln's death and sought revenge on his assassins. The popularity of O'Reilly's adult title will drive interest in this version, but it definitely stands alone and will find an audience among general readers and report writers.” –from *School Library Journal*

### ***A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story***

“The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours’ walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the ‘lost boys’ of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya’s in an astonishing and moving way.” –from Amazon reviews

### **Assignment Instructions:**

- 1) Choose one of the two books above. Make sure your parents approve your choice.
- 2) Read the book. You may even choose to read *both books*, but only one is required.
- 3) Complete *one* of the assignments below by the first day of school (Wednesday, August 19, 2015).

### **Choose ONE of the following:**

- a. Summarize the book in poem form with rhyme (minimum 15 lines).
- b. Q & A - Pretend you're interviewing a person from the book. Write your interview in question and answer format with at least 15 questions (and 15 answers).
- c. Compare and contrast the book with another you have read. If you choose to read both books, you may compare them to each other.
- d. Write a 2-page letter to one of the characters in the book.
- e. As a literary agent, write a letter to the publishing company designed to persuade them to publish this book.
- f. You're the reporter. Write a front-page news story or a report live from the scene.
- g. Journal as you go - As you're reading the book, keep a two-sided reading journal. The left side should have quotes from the book and page numbers. The right side should have your questions, thoughts, observations, revelations, etc.
- h. Write a short play dramatizing one of the scenes in the book. Include character names and then give them lines (dialogue).

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

*Is this for a grade?*

Yes. This will count as your first history grade for the new school year.

*When should I complete the assignment?*

Please complete this assignment as soon as you finish the book (or in some cases while you are reading it). Don't wait until the last minute to read the book or wait too long after reading the book to complete the assignment.

*How do I choose which assignment to do?*

Many of the following are simply creative ways of narrating the book. You may choose whichever report form most appeals to you, but teachers will be expecting your best work.

*Do I have to type this?*

Yes, it should be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced. The only exception to the typing requirement is the double-sided journal, which may be done in cursive (not print).

**Grading:**

Your report will be graded according to the following rubric:

Narration	/25
<i>Writing is accurate, detailed, and shows evidence that the student read the book.</i>	
Assignment Directions	/25
<i>Student followed assignment directions and typed the assignment.</i>	
Grammar and Mechanics	/25
<i>Student proofread work carefully and used correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.</i>	
Best Effort	/25
<i>Student used creativity and completed the assignment with excellence.</i>	
Total	/100

Please note that this assignment is **due on the first day of school on Wednesday, August 19, 2015**. Students will lose ten points for each day that the assignment is late, and it will not be accepted past Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.