

## Tall Oaks 5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

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Dear Parents and Students,

The rising 5th-graders will have a choice of either reading Johanna Spyri's *Heidi* or William Pène du Bois' *The Twenty-One Balloons*. Both are fictional works. Although both books are worthwhile reads, **students will only need to complete the summer reading assignment for one of these books.**

*Heidi* centers around an orphan girl who ends up living with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps, and then with another family in the city. The story centers around how each key character is influenced and changed by the people around them. Strong spiritual themes of brotherly kindness and trusting in God's purposes and his sovereignty prevail in this book.

*The Twenty-One Balloons* is about Professor Sherman who, in his desire for a leisurely adventure, stumbles upon the island of Krakatoa. The book focuses on Professor Sherman's adventures on the island of Krakatoa and what he learns about the residents who live there. The book contains an interesting storyline with some fantasy elements. It centers on the decision-making of individuals on the island of Krakatoa, and as such, forces the reader to evaluate the motivations for the choices he makes.

**Please choose one of these books to read. Be ready to turn in your summer reading assignment on the first day of school.** Again, you will only need to complete the summer reading assignment for the book that you choose to read. We will be discussing the key themes encountered in both those books for the first week of school.

Happy reading!

Mrs. Walker

**Choose one** of the two following reading responses, corresponding to the book you choose to read:



## 5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment: *Heidi*

*Heidi* is filled with several colorful characters. **How would you describe each of the following characters (Ex. Are they wise, helpful, encouraging, impulsive, etc.?). Give specific examples from the book to explain why you chose to describe them in this particular way.**

<b>Heidi</b>

<b>Alm-Uncle (Heidi's grandfather)</b>

<b>Peter</b>

<b>Klara</b>

<b>Grandmamma (Klara's grandmother)</b>



## 5th Grade Summer Reading: *The Twenty-One Balloons*

All Professor Sherman wants to do at the start of the book is to leisurely circumnavigate the world. How does he plan to do this? What went wrong that caused him to crash-land on Krakatoa?


Professor Sherman discovers that everyone on Krakatoa is rich because of the diamond mines on the island. Why did the other inhabitants not want Professor Sherman to simply fly over the island? Why did the inhabitants want to make sure that Professor Sherman landed on the island?


There are a few fantastical inventions that the residents have come up with on the island of Krakatoa. Describe your favorite invention that the residents came up with? Why?


If you can invent something, what would it be? Describe its design and what it would be used for. Then draw a picture of it.


