



AQUINAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Recognized by Association Montessori Internationale since 1965

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Welcome to the Junior Great Books program!

We will be embarking on an exciting literary journey that will take us from folktales and fables from around the world to poetry and stories that are considered classics. To reach these destinations, we will explore selections from the Junior Great Books series that everyone in the group has read in advance. We will be meeting on a biweekly basis to engage in a lively discussion about what we have read. Students work together to discover meaning through looking at details, drawing inferences, and analyzing characters' motives.

Guidelines for Junior Great Books Participants:

1. Read the selection at least twice before the meeting. If you read it a long time ago re-read the selection, as you will not remember it well enough to support your opinion with evidence from the selection.
2. Read carefully and deeply. A vocabulary guide may be given to assist with words that you do not understand. If there is no vocabulary guide, use a dictionary.
3. Talk only about the selection that everyone has read for that week. Do not talk about different stories or events that do not relate to the current selection.
4. Speak up and say what you think. Also, speak up if you do not understand or disagree with something that is being said; and be ready to explain why.
5. Listen carefully and do not interrupt while someone is sharing an idea.
6. Be polite and courteous to your peers. Remember that you are working together as a team to search for the meaning of the selection. Let everyone have a chance to share his or her ideas.
7. Be on time and bring your book to every meeting.

A reading list with the discussion dates is provided and also posted on the school's website.

Happy Reading!

Marie McCain

Junior Great Books Discussion Leader