



Saint Maria Goretti

Est. 1954

Catholic School

Summer 2021

Reading over the summer helps students to maintain or even improve their reading skills. Much like playing a sport or learning to play a musical instrument requires practice to develop skills, reading needs to be practiced every day to maintain and strengthen reading skills.

Educators are concerned about summer reading loss, also known as the “summer slide.” Research on summer reading finds that students who DO NOT READ in the summer can lose two to three months of reading skills; kids who DO READ tend to gain a month of reading proficiency.

- K. Alexander, D. Entwisle, and L. Olson’s 2007 longitudinal study of Baltimore students over 15 years found that by the end of fifth grade, students who did not read during the summer measured two years behind their classmates who did. They concluded that 2/3 of the reading difference in ninth graders can be attributed to reading or not during the summer school breaks.

How can you make reading a habit this summer? Here are some suggestions:

- Make sure your children read every day, making reading a part of your daily routine.
- Read to your children—no child (or adult) is too old for this! Think about this: If you read just one book a day to your child, they will have read 1825 books by their 5th birthday! Every Day Counts, Every Book Counts!
- Take a trip to the library. Many libraries have free summer programs to encourage reading.
- Visit your favorite bookstore.
- Talk to your children about what they are reading. Starting meaningful discussions with your children about what they are reading shows them that you value reading and are interested in what they are reading.
- Model reading--Let your children see you reading every day.

Attached, you will find the **required and recommended summer reading selections for all rising Kindergarten – 8th Grade students. Please refer to the grade-level your child will be entering in the fall.** There are no summer assignments (6th-8th graders should annotate) to complete and turn in on the first day of school. We do ask that parents complete and sign the Summer Reading Acknowledgement form, confirming that your child(ren) read the required reading. The goal is for students to enjoy and experience the selection. Teachers will spend time at the beginning of the school year reviewing the required reading with students.

Many of these books are available at your local library, as a free e-book and audio book download from the Gutenberg Project at <https://www.gutenberg.org/>, as a free audio book from LibriVox, <https://librivox.org/>, and as an audio book on YouTube.

Happy Summer and Happy Reading!

Kindergarten

Read aloud is an important experience for children. Students should have the required books and some of the following or similar books read to them:

Required:

The Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne
A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson
(Try to get any illustrated version. Tasha Tudor is a favorite illustrator, but not necessary)



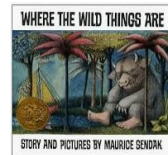
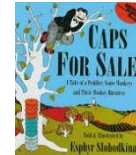
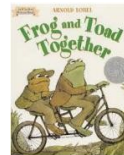
Recommended:

The Pigeon Books (any or all) by Mo Willems
Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes by Robert Frederick
The Cat in the Hat Beginner Reader Books by Dr. Seuss
Little Bear: Box Set – Else Holmelund Minarik & Maurice Sendak
Mother Goose by Kate Greenway (w/coloring book) or standard *Mother Goose Tales and Rhymes*
The Velveteen Rabbit by Marjorie Williams
Clown of God by Tomie de Paola
Dogger by Shirley Hughes

First Grade

Required:

Frog and Toad books by Arnold Lobel
Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak



Recommended:

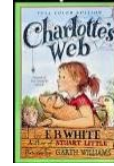
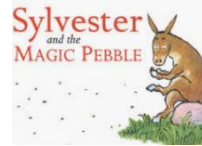
Elephant & Piggie books by Mo Willems
Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Anderson
Fairy Tales by Charles Perrault
Grimm's Fairy Tales (Sterling Unabridged Classics)
Tales of Beatrix Potter
The Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh by A.A. Milne
The Velveteen Rabbit by Marjorie Williams
Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares by Frank Murphy
Mouse Tales by Arnold Lobel
Dogger by Shirley Hughes
"The Selfish Giant" by Oscar Wilde
Billy and Blaze books by C.W. Anderson
Little Tim books by Edward Ardizzone & Stephen Fry
Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
The Biggest Bear by Lynn Ward
The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson
Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Watch Out for Chicken Feet in Your Soup by Tomie De Paola
Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant

Second Grade

Read by the student or read aloud with a parent/guardian

Required:

Picture Book: *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
by William Steig



Chapter Book (parent read aloud): *Charlotte's Web*
by E.B. White
ISBN#: 978-0064410939

OR

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner
ISBN#: 978-0590426909 (*it is the first of a series*)

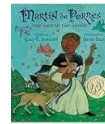
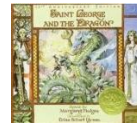
Recommended:

Aesop's Fables by Aesop
Grimm's Fairy Tales (Sterling Unabridged Classics)
D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire
Tales of Greek Heroes by Roger Lancelyn Green
Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi
American Tall Tales by Mary Pope
Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

Third Grade

Required:

Picture Books: *St. George and the Dragon*
by Margart Hodge



AND

Martin De Porres: The Rose in the Desert by Gary D. Schmidt

Chapter Book: *Stuart Little* by E.B. White ISBN#: 978-0064400565

Suggested

Parent Read Aloud: *Mary Poppins*, by P.L. Travers



Recommended:

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Aesop's Fables by Aesop
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
Grimm's Fairy Tales (Sterling Unabridged Classics)
Five Children and It by E. Nesbit
Blue Fairy Book by Andrew Lang
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
D'Aulaire's Book of Norse Myths by Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire
"The Happy Prince" by Oscar Wilde
Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater
Aladdin and Other Favorite Arabian Nights Stories by Philip Smith
A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Classic Myths to Read Aloud by William F. Russell

Fourth Grade:

Required:

Picture Book: *Sir Cumference and the First Round Table*
by Cindy Neuschwander

(This is part of a literary math series if you wish to read them all, you may)

Chapter Book: *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

ISBN#: 978-0547328614

OR

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

ISBN#: 978-0689316142



Suggested:

Parent Read Aloud: *The Light Princess* by George MacDonald

OR

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster



Recommended:

Prince Caspian by C.S. Lewis

Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis

Aesop's Fables by Aesop

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Robin Hood by Howard Pyle or by Roger Lancelyn Green

The Story of Rolf by Allen French

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pene du Bois

Sir Cumference Series by Cindy Neuschwander

Classic Myths to Read Aloud by William F. Russell

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink

The Green Ember series by S. D. Smith

Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Grimm's Fairy Tales (Sterling Unabridged Classics)

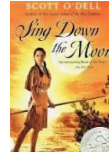
Nancy Drew: The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene (First book in a series)

The Hardy Boys series by Franklin W. Dixon (any in the series)

Fifth Grade:

Required:

Chapter Book: *Sing Down the Moon* by Scott O'Dell
ISBN#: 978-0547406329



Recommended:

The Silver Chair by C.S. Lewis
Aesop's Fables by Aesop
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
Carry On, Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum
The Princess and Curdie by George MacDonald
Nordic Gods and Heroes by Padraic Colum
King Arthur and His Knights of The Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green
Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling (3rd, 4th, or 5th)
Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
Joel: A Boy of Galilee by Annie Fellows Johnston
The Great Little Madison by Jean Fritz
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
Heidi by Johanna Spyri
Grimm's Fairy Tales (Sterling Unabridged Classics)
Nancy Drew: The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene (*First book in a series*)

Sixth Grade:

Required:

Chapter Book: *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor
ISBN#: 978-0440416630



Recommended:

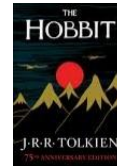
The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis
The Last Battle by C.S. Lewis
The Adventure of Ulysses by Bernard Evslin
Aesop's Fables by Aesop (K-6th)
The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne
Grimm's Fairy Tales (Sterling Unabridged Classics)

Seventh Grade:

Required:

Literature: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

ISBN#: 978-0547928227



Recommended:

The Boy Knight: A Tale of the Crusades by G. A. Henty

The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle

Saint Joan: The Girl Soldier by Louis de Wohl

Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

Grimm's Fairy Tales by Brothers Grimm

A Man for All Seasons by Robert Bolt

Beowulf by Robert Nye

The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander

Redwall by Brian Jacques

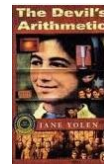
The Blood Red Crescent and the Battle of Lepanto by Henry Garnett

Eighth Grade:

Required:

Literature: *Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen

ISBN#: 978-0140345353



Recommended:

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Night by Elie Wiesel

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation by George Washington

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo

The Winged Watchman by Hilda van Stockum

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

Book Buying Tips

Popular Publishers that are good and make affordable paperbacks: Penguin Classics and Dover Thrift

Publishing companies to avoid: Great Illustrated Classics and small self-published versions

Reputable book vendors that probably will have these titles if you wish to purchase them from places other than Amazon:

<http://www.bfbooks.com/>

<https://www.sonlight.com/>

<https://bethlehembooks.com/>

Suggested Books & Resources for Parents

The Case for Catholic Education by Ryan S. Topping

Renewing the Mind: A Reader in the Philosophy of Catholic Education by Ryan Topping

The Read Aloud Handbook (7th or 8th edition) by Jim Trelease

Website: <https://readaloudrevival.com/>

Here are two entertaining talks and one article about the value of reading aloud with children:

“Why We Should All Be Reading Aloud to Children” by Rebecca Bellingham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBuT2wdYtpM>

Read Aloud Revival #49: “Why We Should All Be Reading Aloud to Children”

<https://amongstlovelythings.com/49-2>

“Reading Aloud to Middle School Students” by Kasey Short

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/reading-aloud-middle-school-students>

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Summer Reading Verification Form

*I verify that my child _____, who will
be in the _____ Grade, has completed the Summer
Reading requirements.*

Parent Signature

Date