

## Middle School Summer Reading List

*I have included a list of books that I love and consider to be must-reads. The books vary in level and range and while they are labeled by grade heading, I suggest selecting a book closest to or at your child's reading level. If there is a book on there that they haven't read that has a star next to it (for example, The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White), I highly recommend your child reads one from that list, no matter the level. These are classics that I believe every student should have read before they leave middle school. All books are available on amazon.com or lifeteen.com if not in your public library.*

*Please write a reaction of at least 250 words to every book you read. A reaction paragraph includes your own personal opinion on the book, your recommendation, what did you like or dislike about the book, and maybe what stuck with you the most. Did you like how the author introduced the characters? What pulled you into the story or what could have been better?*

***Suggested Catholic Reading for 6-8<sup>th</sup>:*** Both available on amazon.com or lifeteen.com. Please choose one and write a reaction (one paragraph) to whichever book you read, or both if you read both! Annotate by highlighting or underlining important parts. Add questions you have about decisions characters make or if something is confusing. Write important points of understanding in the margins. This will be used in most of the classrooms to make deeper connections within the first weeks of school.

**Blessed are the Bored in Spirit: A Young Catholic's Search for Meaning** by Mark Hart

**Holier Than Thou: Amazing Saint Stories You Have to Read to Believe** by Mark Hart

***Have you read these all-time classics? Don't be afraid, just read them!***

\*A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

\*The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

\*From The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg

\*The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster and Jules Feiffer

\*The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White

\*Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson

\*Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List***

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff (Realistic Fiction) A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio (Realistic Fiction) Ten-year-old Auggie, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being homeschooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, where he endures taunts and bullying and struggles to be seen as just another student.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck (Realistic Fiction) During the recession of 1937, 15-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor (Survival Fiction) Blinded when his ship is torpedoed, Philip is marooned on an island with an elderly West Indian who shows him how to survive and helps him to acquire a new kind of vision.

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata (Realistic Fiction) This heart-touching story chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Remember Me to Harold Square by Paula Danziger (Realistic Fiction) When Frank spends the summer with Kendra and her family in their New York City apartment, a friendship develops as the two teenagers set off on a scavenger hunt exploring the city's museums, restaurants, and other landmarks.

Four Perfect Pebbles by Lila Perl (Nonfiction) The six-year ordeal of the Blumenthal family is chronicled in this memoir of Jewish life during the Holocaust from a little girl's perspective.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (Survival Fiction) Headed for Canada to visit his father for the first time since his parents' divorce, 13-year-old Brian is the sole survivor of a plane crash, with only the clothes he has on and a hatchet to help him live in the wilderness.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini (Fantasy Fiction) Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy. Soon, he discovers that nothing is further from the truth. When his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed, Eragon must flee the tyrannical king Galbatorix.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List***

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery (Realistic Fiction) Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor (Historical Fiction) Facing a year of night riders and burnings, Cassie and her family continue their struggle to keep their land and hold onto what rightfully belongs to them, despite the difficult battles they must continue to endure.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (Historical Fiction) In 1859, Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, uses his wits to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was supposed to buy a family's freedom.

A Corner Of The Universe by Ann M. Martin (Realistic Fiction) The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.

So B. It by Sarah Weeks (Realistic Fiction) After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke (Fantasy Fiction) Two brothers, Prosper and Bo, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with--and protection from--Venice's "Thief Lord."

Flush by Carl Hiaasen (Environmental Fiction) When his father is arrested for sinking a boat he is certain is illegally dumping raw sewage into the harbor, young Noah visits his father in jail who teaches him an important lesson about justice--inspiring Noah to finish the job he started using a clever, but legal, plan!

Eldest by Christopher Paolini (Fantasy Fiction) Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have just saved the rebel state from destruction by the mighty forces of King Galbatorix, cruel ruler of the Empire. Now Eragon must travel to Ellesmera, land of the elves, for further training in the skills of the Dragon Rider: magic and swordsmanship.

Matched by Ally Condie (Dystopian Fiction) Cassia has always had complete trust in the Society to make decisions for her, but when she is being paired with her ideal mate, a second face flashes on the screen, and Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Hobbit and all J.R.R. Tolkien books in general!

1984 Series: Signet Classics by George Orwell (Classic Fiction) This classic portrays a terrifying vision of life in the future when a totalitarian government, considered a "Negative Utopia," watches over all citizens and directs all activities, becoming more powerful as time goes by.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer (Science Fiction) In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (Fantasy Fiction) Meggie's father, Mo, reads aloud from Inkheart and an evil ruler, Capricorn, escapes the boundaries of fiction and lands in the middle of their living room. Suddenly, Meggie is in the middle of the kind of adventure she has only read about in books.

Under The Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury (Historical Fiction WWII) Tomikazu, a Hawaiian-born boy of Japanese descent, must help his family survive when his father and grandfather are arrested after the attack on Pearl Harbor.