

Middle School
Summer Reading Assignment

Students who are entering a Grade 6, 7, or 8 English Language Arts class are to read one book for the summer reading assignment. Directions are as follows:

Directions: The goal of the summer reading assignment is to keep your reading, writing, and thinking skills at their best. You are to choose ONE book within your zone of proximal development, which can be found on your latest STAR reading test results.

After you read your book, please answer the following questions by writing 3 well-constructed paragraphs of 5-8 sentences each. Please answer all questions completely using evidence from the text (examples and/or a direct quote from the book) to support your thoughts.

1. Choose a character in the book. What words would you use to describe him/her? Use evidence from the book to explain why this word describes the character.
2. How has the main character changed from the beginning of the novel to the end? Explain using evidence from the book.
3. What is one theme/message/lesson you can learn about life from this book? Explain.

Responses can be handwritten or typed. Please turn this assignment in by the first Friday of the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Hunter at Hunter@basilicachool.com.

Middle School Suggested Summer Reading List

Having trouble finding a good book? Take a look at the list below for some ideas, and also check out the attached list of Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books for 2020-2021.

Suggested Catholic Reading for Grades 6-8

Blessed are the Bored in Spirit: A Young Catholic's Search for Meaning by Mark Hart. The author's humorous and hard-hitting reflections drive home the point that God isn't calling the reader to be a *good* person—someone who merely obeys the rules—but a *new* person in Jesus Christ.

Holier Than Thou: Amazing Saint Stories You Have to Read to Believe by Mark Hart. In *Holier Than Thou*, you won't just read crazy stories about people whose faces radiated light when they prayed or who could read people's souls (although you will), you'll also see how you can relate your own life to the lessons each saint teaches us, inviting them as companions on your journey toward sainthood. God is calling each and every one of us to build His Kingdom on earth; let the lives and legacies of these saints inspire you to keep going and to keep growing in holiness.

6th Grade Suggested 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 foster care, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

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, Phillip is marooned on an island with an elderly Wes 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.

7th Grade Suggested 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 burning, 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. This story takes place in the 1930s.

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 challenged 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.

8th Grade Suggested Reading List

Milkweed by Jerry Spinell (Historical Fiction) This book is about a boy in Warsaw, Poland in the years of World War II during the Holocaust. Over time he is taken in by a Jewish group of orphans and he must avoid the Nazis while living on the streets with other orphans.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction) This book is set in Nazi Germany, at the start of WWII. On the journey to her new home, Liesel's younger brother dies and she steals her first book: The Gravedigger's Handbook. When she arrives at her new home, she suddenly has a new mama and papa. Haunted every night by nightmares of her brother's death, Liesel and her Papa set themselves the challenge of reading the book, Liesel's last link to her brother.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (Fantasy Fiction) Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

1984 Series 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 an adventure she has only read about in books.

Under the Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury (Historical Fiction) Tomikezu, 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.

Suggested All-Time Classics for Grade 6-8

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (Science Fantasy Fiction) Meg Murry, a high-school-aged girl is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin O'Keefe to rescue her father, a gifted scientist, from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin (Mystery Fiction) This story is a murder-mystery novel set in Wisconsin during the 1970s. A mysterious realtor arranges for a specific group of people to become tenants in an apartment building called Sunset Towers that overlooks the abandoned mansion of Samuel Westing.

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg (Mystery Fiction) This book follows siblings Claudia and Jamie Kincaid as they run away from home to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

The Phantom of Tollbooth by Norton Juster and Jules Feiffer (Fantasy Fiction) This is a story of a bored young boy named Milo who unexpectedly receives a magic tollbooth one afternoon and, having nothing better to do, drives through it in his toy car, transporting him to the Kingdom of Wisdom, once prosperous but now troubled. There, he acquires two faithful companions, a dog named Tock and the Humbug, and goes on a quest to restore to the kingdom its exiled princesses—named Rhyme and Reason—from the Castle in the Air. In the process, he learns valuable lessons, finding a love of learning.

The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White (Fiction) In Canada during the spring of 1968, a cob (the name for an adult male swan) and a pen (the name for an adult female swan), both trumpeter swans, build their summer nest on a small island in a pond. The swans are worried when Sam Beaver, an 11-year-old boy on a camping trip with his father, begins coming to the lake every day to watch them.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls (Fiction) This is an adventurous story about a young boy and his dream for his own red-bone hound hunting dogs. Set in the Ozark Mountains during the Great Depression, Billy Coleman works hard and saves his earnings for 2 years to achieve his dream of buying two coonhound pups.