

# 2026 Summer Reading for Rising First Graders

Welcome to First Grade and Happy Summer! We are praying for all of you and hoping that you have a blessed, restful, fun summer full of many adventures! In addition to family fun, we would like to encourage you to keep up the reading! Summer reading is critical, not only for **helping kids maintain learning while school is out, but also for fostering social-emotional development, discovering the joy of stories, and elevating the importance of lifelong learning.** Therefore, we are asking that all students read and or be read to! To help with this goal, we have created a suggested reading list below. All of the suggestions are available at the public library (just click on the title). However, please don't stop there! The more books read the better! We are also including a couple of activities you could do if you are looking for an added layer of understanding or discussion. These are not required, just ideas!



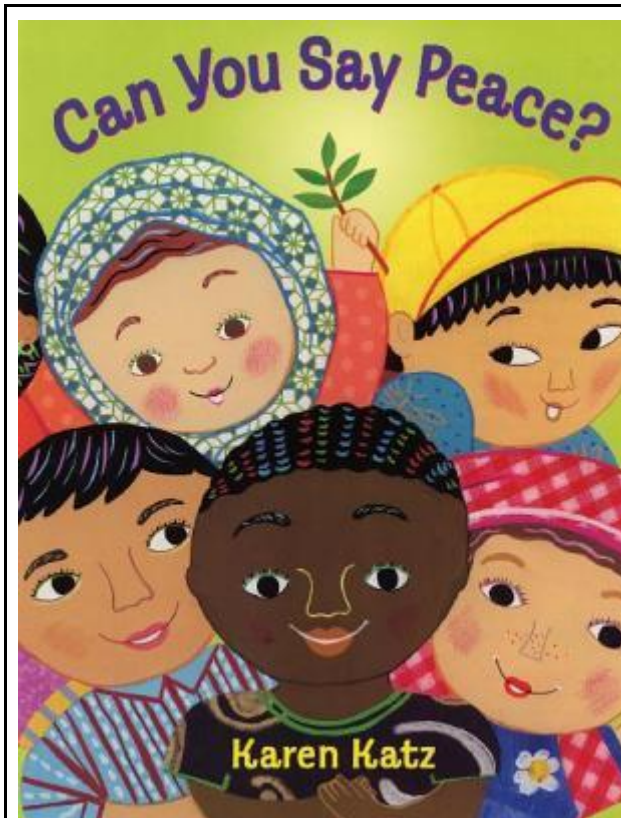
The one book we are requiring all students to read (or be read to) is Chrysanthemum

by Kevin Henkes. We will be doing several activities involving this story when we return to school in August as a follow up! Some ideas would be to read this book together, talk about any vocabulary words, discuss how Chrysanthemum felt and how she solved her problem, and maybe even do a little role playing involving situations that may come up with friends! This book is a fantastic conversation starter!

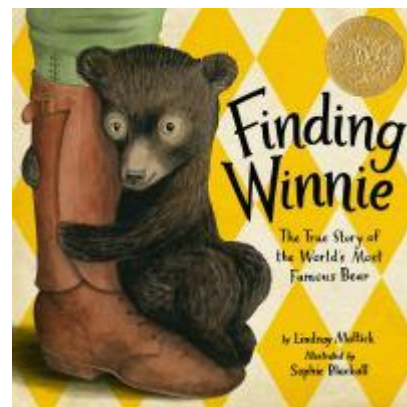
Further ideas for extending learning with any summer books:

- Draw the main characters
- Draw the setting
- Create a different ending
- Act out the story in a short play
- Compare and contrast two books or characters
- Create a short "book talk" and maybe even record the student talking about the book (remember Reading Rainbow?)

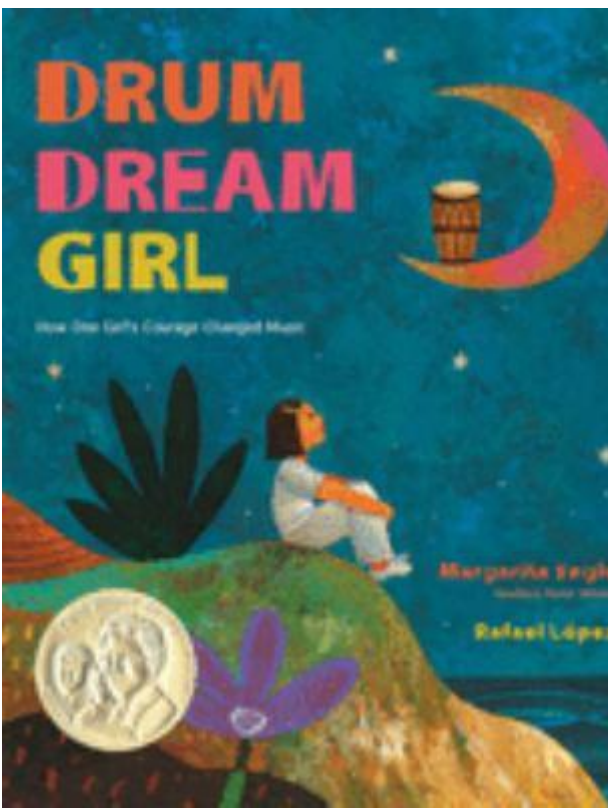
We are not requiring any paper recording of books read! However, I have heard the public library is doing a summer reading program with rewards, including a Fred Nats game! Our prayer is that students will read, read, read, and learn to love books as much as we do!



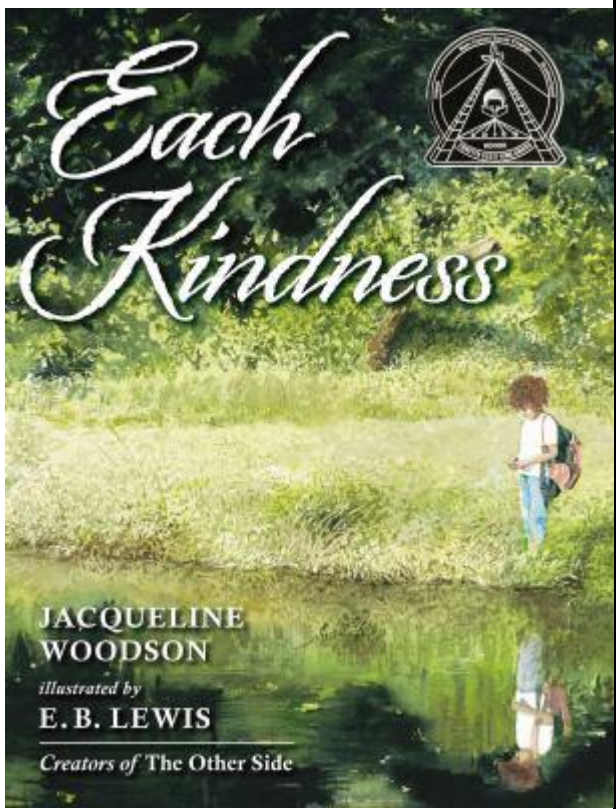
Can You Say Peace?  
by Katz, Karen



Finding Winnie  
The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear  
by Mattick, Lindsay



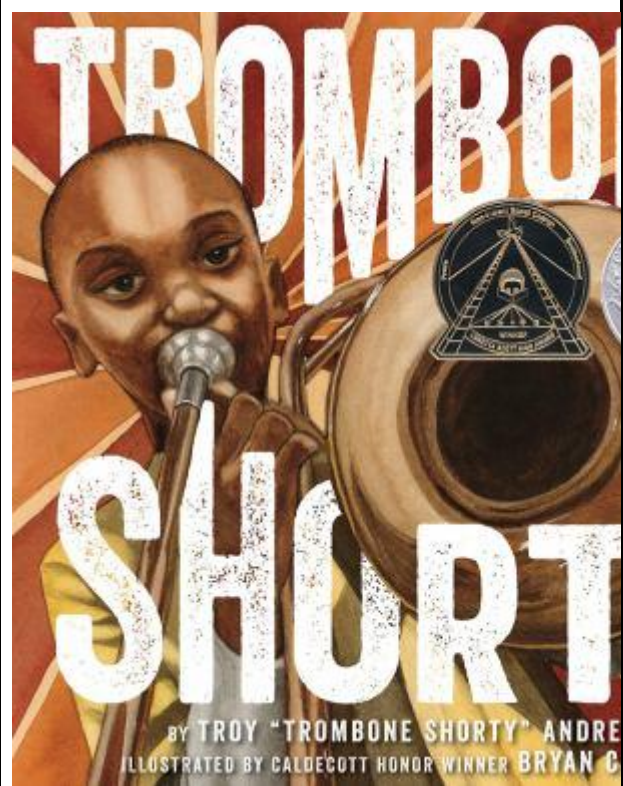
Drum Dream Girl  
How One Girl's Courage Changed Music  
by Engle, Margarita



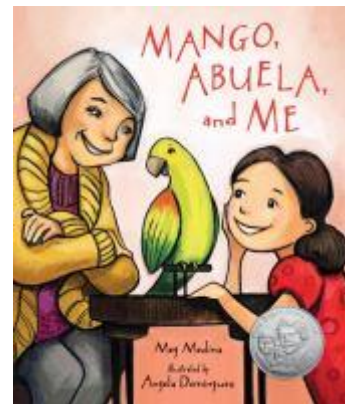
Each Kindness  
by Woodson, Jacqueline



I Am Jane Goodall  
by Meltzer, Brad

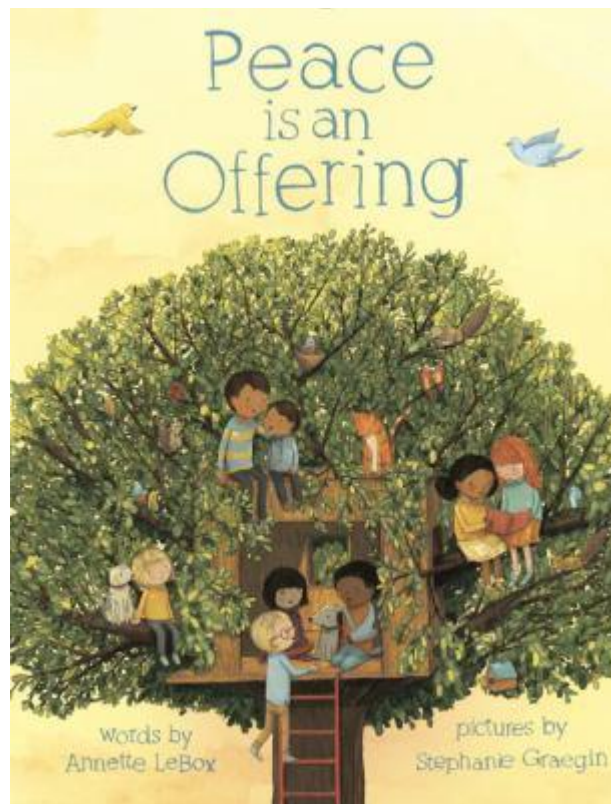


Trombone Shorty  
by Andrews, Troy

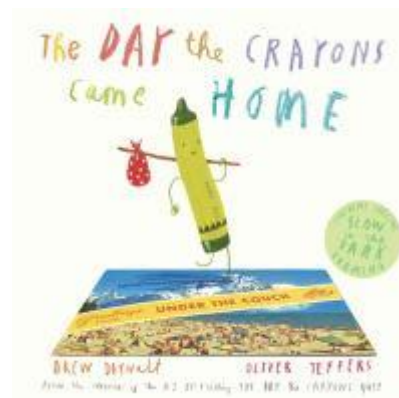


Mango, Abuela, and Me  
by Medina, Meg

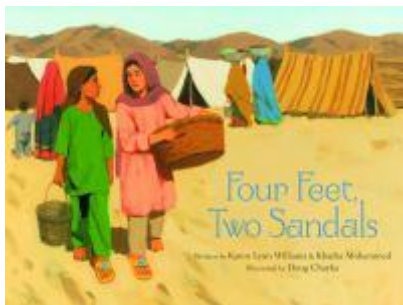
The Most Magnificent Thing  
by Spires, Ashley



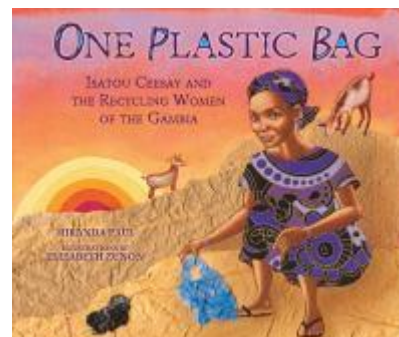
Peace Is An Offering  
by LeBox, Annette



The Day the Crayons Came Home  
by Daywalt, Drew

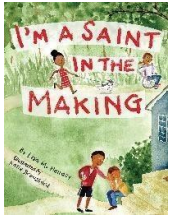


Four Feet, Two Sandals  
by Williams, Karen Lynn



One Plastic Bag  
Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the  
Gambia  
by Paul, Miranda

# Our Amazing 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Summer Reading List 2026



The book all rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are required to read this summer is I'm a Saint in the Making by Lisa M. Hendey. We feel that it is a great story that our students will enjoy. This book is especially timely as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is such an important year with our Catholic students receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

We hope that I'm a Saint in the Making is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to your summer reading. Below is a list of books and series that we think students will really enjoy and will grow their love of reading and learning through the summer. Students are asked to read at least two books from those listed below. Students are not required to keep a reading log.

## **Free Reads:**

Any book that pertains to our catholic faith or stories about saints.

A to Z Mystery Series Ron Roy

Amelia Bedelia series by Peggy Parish

Basil of Baker Street (The Great Mouse Detective) by Eve Titus

Don't Throw It to Mo by David Adler

Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglas by Suzanne Slade

Frog and Toad series by Arnold Lobel

Ivy and Bean series by Annie Barrows

Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osbourne

Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille by Jen Bryant

Why am I Here? A Story about Becoming the Best Version of Yourself by Matthew Kelly

Zac and Zoe Mystery Series by Mike Lupica

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Summer Reading 2026

Welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! This summer, all 3rd grade students will read *Third Grade Angels* by Jerry Spinelli. We hope that students enjoy this exciting story about entering a new school year and striving to earn the first angel halo from the teacher. We'll start our 3rd grade adventure by discussing this book and creating a project based on the story.



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Students will also read at least two books from the list of great titles below.

We hope these books ignite a continued love of reading in our students.

Students are not required to complete a reading log this summer.

Any book in the “I Survived” series by Lauren Tarshis

Any book in the “Little House” series by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Any book in the “Magic Tree House” series by Mary Pope Osborne

My Father’s Dragon by Ruth Stiles-Gannett

The BFG by Roald Dahl

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

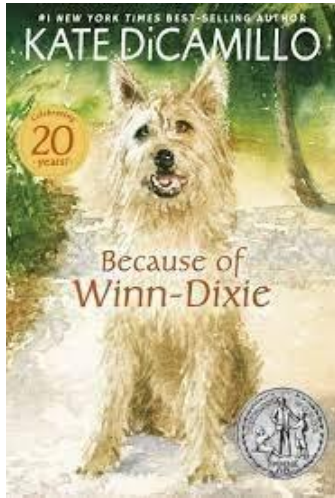
Nim’s Island by Wendy Orr

Stuart Little by E. B. White

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia McLaughlin

# The Fantastically Fabulous 4thGrade Summer Reading List 2026



Prior to the start of the new school year, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will read Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. The image on the left shows one available cover of the book. This classic has been reprinted many times, and another version is just fine. We look forward to diving into our literature unit, discussing and completing assignments on this great book. We hope all our students enjoy it 😊.

We ask that all students have a physical copy of the book to bring to the first day of class.

**Students are then asked to read at least two additional books from the list below:**

Dash (Dogs of World War II) by Kirby Larson

Dear America: The Winter of Red Snow by Kristiana Gregory

Finder, Coal Mine Dog by Alison Hart

Firefly Hollow by Allsion McGhee

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Last in a Long Line of Rebels by Lisa Lewis Tyre

The Madman of Piney Woods by Christopher Paul Curtis

Matilda by Roald Dahl

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

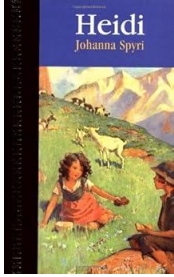
Night of the Twisters by Ivy Ruckman

Some Kind of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart

Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing by Judy Blume

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

# 2026 Fifth Grade Summer Reading List



We hope all our rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoy reading Heidi by Johanna Spyri this summer. For the first two weeks of school, all students will need a copy of this book to bring to school. This will allow us to kick off our literature unit with an in-depth study of this novel.

Fifth grade is focusing on classic literature this year. Choose at least two books from the selections below to read this summer. Students are not required to complete a reading log – just enjoy the books.

George Washington's Socks by Elvira Woodruff

Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective by Donald Sobol

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Journey to the Centre of the Earth by Jules Verne

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson

Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

The Secret Garden by Francis Burnett

The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pène du Bois

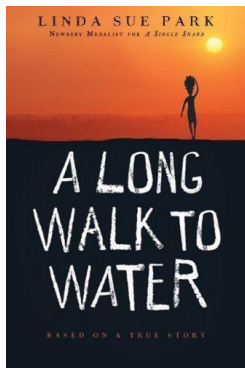
Swiss Family Robinson by Johann Wyss

Aesop's Fables

# Summer Reading

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 2026

Welcome to middle school 6<sup>th</sup> graders! The middle school team cannot wait to get to know you as we start your journey through middle school. Below are instructions on summer reading as you prepare for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.



Step 1: Read Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park. Arrive on the first day of school prepared to discuss and complete assignments on this novel.

Step 2: With your parents, select at least two books from the reading list for your grade. During the first few days of school, you will work in class on a project for one of the books you have chosen. Nothing needs to be written during the summer, and no reading log needs to be completed. Just come to school having read the novel 😊.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Optional Books:

7 Riddles to Nowhere by A.J. Cattapan

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds

The Beatryce Prophecy by Kate DiCamillo

Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley

The Dragon's Tooth (Ashtown Burials #1) by N. D. Wilson

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton

Greenglass House by Kate Milford

Keepers of the Lost Cities by Sharon Messenger

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead

Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Mayday by Karen Harrington

Rain Reign by Ann Martin

Redwall Series by Brian Jacques

The Secret Lake: A Children's Mystery Adventure by Karen Inglis

This Side of Wild: Mutts, Mares, and Laughing Dinosaurs by Gary Paulson

Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly

The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

Life of Saint Francis, St. Bonaventure

Letters to My Little Sister, Trinity Marsh

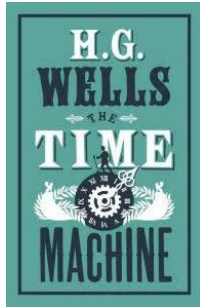
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

The Hound of the Baskervilles, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

# Summer Reading

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 2026

Below are directions for successfully completing your summer reading assignment and being ready for success at the start of the school year.



Step 1: Read The Time Machine by H.G. Wells. Arrive on the first day of school prepared to discuss and complete assignments on this novel.

Step 2: With your parents, select at least two books from the reading list for your grade. During the first few days of school, you will work in class on a project for one of the books you have chosen. Nothing needs to be written during the summer, and no reading log needs to be completed. Just come to school having read the novel 😊.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Optional Summer Reading Books:

100 Cupboards by N. D. Wilson

Amos Fortune Free Man by Elizabeth Yates

Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607 by Elisa Carbone

Calico Captive by Elizabeth George Spear

Capture the Flag by Kate Messner

City Spies by James Ponti

The Elk King: Tales from Animalia Book One by Jen Dischner

Dragonfriend by Marc Secchia

The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Hope Girl by Wenday Dunham

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Martin Ganda

Left Out by Tim Green

Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune by Pamela Watertown Turner

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Wake Up Missing by Kate Messner

Whalesong by Robert Siegel

Wild Boy: The Real Life of the Savage of Aveyron by Mary Losure

A Year in the Life of a Complete and Total Genius by Stacey Matson

Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Francis de Sales

Saint Helena and the True Cross, Louis de Wohl

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain

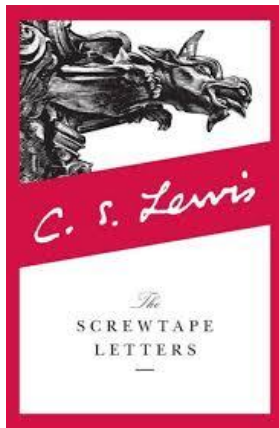
All Creatures Great and Small, James Herriot

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott

# Summer Reading

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 2026

We look forward to welcoming our “seniors” back for their capstone year at Holy Cross Academy. Below are directions for successfully completing your summer reading assignment and being ready for success at the start of the school year.



Step 1: Read The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. There have been many editions printed throughout the year - the image at left is just one example. Arrive on the first day of school prepared to discuss and complete assignments on this novel.

Step 2: With your parents, select at least two books from the reading list for your grade. During the first few days of school, you will work in class on a project for one of the books you have chosen. Nothing needs to be written during the summer, and no reading log needs to be completed. Just come to school having read the novel 😊.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Optional Summer Reading Books:

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible by Leon Leyson

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Gate by Nancy Carabio Belanger

I Will Always Write Back by Martin Ganda

Listen Slowly by Thanhha Lai

A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

October Sky by Homer Hicham

Orbiting Jupiter by Gary Schmidt

Perfect Blindside by Leslea Wahl

Project 1065: A Novel of World War II by Alan Gratz

The Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of Cultural Revolution by Ji-li Jiang

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

The Woman Who Split the Atom: The Life of Lise Meitner by Marissa Moss

The Story of a Soul, St. Therese of Lisieux

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Edward Sri

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark Twain

The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexander Dumas