

# SJCS Summer Reading List

2019-2020



## **Rising Pre-K4**

The Night before Preschool  
by Natasha Wing

## **Rising Kindergarten**

The Night before Kindergarten  
by Natasha Wing

## **Rising 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

Have Fun, Molly Lou Melon  
by Patty Lovell  
(Project details to be emailed by the teacher.)

The Pigeon Has to Go to School  
by Mo Willems  
(Released on July 3<sup>rd</sup>)

## **Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

Please see below.

## **Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

Freckle Juice  
by Judy Blume  
Nonfiction (student choice)

## **Rising 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Because of Winn Dixie  
by Kate DiCamillo  
Biography (student choice)

## **Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Riding Freedom  
by Pam Munoz Ryan

100-Year-Old Secret  
by Tracey Barrett

## **Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Out of My Mind  
by Sharon Draper

(Students will be taking an AR test in the fall.)

## **Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **Social Studies**

Mr. Bruno will distribute reading materials prior to summer break.

### **Optional games to play –**

<http://www.annenberghclassroom.org/page/thats-your-right>

### **ELA**

When you Reach Me  
by Rebecca Stead

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas  
by John Boyne

Student Choice

(Students will be taking an AR test in the fall.)  
*\*Please see below for assignment details*

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

### **Social Studies (Choose one)**

The Gettysburg Address: a Graphic Adaptation  
by Jonathan Hennessey  
(Mr. Bruno has several copies to loan for the summer.)

George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution  
by Brian Kilmeade

Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates  
by Brian Kilmeade

Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass  
By Fredrick Douglass

### **ELA**

The Book Thief  
by Markus Zusak

Student Choice

(Students will be taking an AR test in the fall.)  
*\*Please see below for assignment details*

## Summer Reading List Students Entering 2nd Grade

By maintaining an active literacy life over the summer, you ensure your child the best start to the next grade level. Happy Reading and Writing! ☺

### IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS: PLEASE DON'T BECOME CONCERNED OVER READING LEVELS

· In Elementary school, each child is developing at their own pace, and it is useless to assess your child's strengths as a reader by his/her reading level alone. To develop strength as a reader, children need lots of time to read lots of books that are "just right for their abilities.

### FAQ: WILL HAVING MY CHILD READ HARDER BOOKS HELP THEM GET STRONGER AT READING?

**Nope!** *Exactly the opposite can happen!*

- It is **critically** important that children **not** read books that are too difficult for them. Research has shown that reading books that are at the "frustration level" can actually stunt a reader's growth or send them backwards in their development.
- When in doubt, help your child select books that feel "friendly/familiar" to other books they have enjoyed. Also, check out series books. Not only is it fun to follow familiar characters through new adventures and experiences but reading through a book series can help readers grow!

### FAQ – MY CHILD REALLY CAN READ HARDER BOOKS – AND WANTS TO! THEY CAN READ ALL THE WORDS ON THE PAGE WITHOUT MAKING MISTAKES. THEY EVEN SEEM TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE STORY. ARE YOU SURE I SHOULDN'T GIVE THEM MUCH HARDER BOOKS?

*Good question but **proceed with caution!***

- "Harder books" often deal with themes and issues that are more mature. These texts, while perhaps "readable" or "decodable" by your child, may not be developmentally appropriate for your child's age. Also, please keep in mind that just because readers can read each word on the page smoothly and without error, does not mean that they are able to comprehend the sophisticated themes and layered plot lines that these texts may contain.
- If your child is desperate to read a more difficult book, read it aloud together!
- Your child's ability to comprehend a story by listening to it read aloud is much higher than their ability to understand it alone. Plus, it's a lovely way to bond with your child over your shared love of reading!

**GREAT WEBSITES FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS:** <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/book-lists/favorite-books-for-second-graders/>, <http://www.wilbooks.com/free-resources-free-online-books-second-grade>, <https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/2nd-grade-reading-list>

### **Suggested Reading...**

Please keep in mind these are just suggestions. You are welcome to select other books by visiting the websites.

### **Suggested Authors...**

Cynthia Rylant  
Arnold Lobel  
Eric Carle  
Maurice Sendak  
Marc Brown  
Mary Pope Osborne  
Jan Brett  
E.B. White  
Richard Atwater  
Marjorie Weinman Sharmat  
Judy Blume  
A.A. Milne

### **2nd Grade Summer Reading Book Project**

Choose a book from your grade selection. After reading your book for the summer, choose 1 of the project ideas below to complete. You will be expected to present your project to the class the first week of school.

- 1. Make a model of something in the story.**
- 2. Write a letter to a character in the book.**
- 3. Create a poster of the book to retell the main events of the story.**
- 4. Write a book report.**

Visit your public library and obtain a card for your child. Orange County delivers books to your door when you borrow online. Barnes and Noble has a special Summer Book Club [https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading/\\_/N-rs9](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/summer-reading/_/N-rs9) Borrow audio books from the library and pair it with the written book. Visit Story books online, we utilize this site in school and your children love it! <http://www.storylineonline.net/>

Happy reading and writing! Enjoy your summer. ☺

Love and Blessings,  
Robin Ureña

## St. James Cathedral School - Middle School Summer Reading

June 2019

Welcome to the Summer Reading Program for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at St. James Cathedral School!

The summer reading program is designed to help students understand the following:

- Reading is an enjoyable pastime.
- People read for pleasure, not just to acquire information.
- Reading is a skill that only improves with practice.
- Reading is necessary in providing a solid basis for all academic subjects.

This summer, your student will read required books and have a choice for one book. For all 7<sup>th</sup> graders, THREE (3) total books must be read over the summer break. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be required TWO (2) due to the length of one of their required selections.

Included are suggestions for a wide variety of titles and authors whose works students should be encouraged to investigate. Also included is a planning calendar with suggested completion dates for summer reading and project work.

All work will be due **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This is a required program. The emphasis of the assignments and the evaluation process is on making sure that students understand the books they read and discover how they can make connections between literature and their own life experiences. Your support of the Summer Reading Program is greatly appreciated.

Blessings,

Rachel Gutierrez

Middle School ELA Teacher

# St. James Cathedral School - Middle School Summer Reading Program

## The Assignment

Dear St. James Middle School Student,

Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, you are responsible for reading THREE (3) books this summer. 8<sup>th</sup> grade, you are responsible for TWO (2).

You must read the assigned books listed below for your grade level PLUS one additional book of your own choice. See the attached lists of suggested authors and titles.

You will be responsible for completing the graphic organizers in this packet AND taking an AR test on all books when you return for the school year. Use the schedule below to stay on track with what you are reading.

<b>7<sup>TH</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
1. <i>When you Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead - JUNE	1. <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak - JUNE/JULY
2. <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> by John Boyne - JULY	2. YOUR CHOICE - AUGUST
3. YOUR CHOICE - AUGUST	

St. James Cathedral School - Middle School Summer Reading Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book #1

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Title

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Author

An important event or idea in this book is (be sure to describe it) .....

I chose this event as important because.....

How does this book connect to your own personal life experiences, or other pieces of literature, or historical events? Use AT LEAST 3 pieces of EVIDENCE!

St. James Cathedral School - Middle School Summer Reading Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book #2

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Title

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Author

An important event or idea in this book is (be sure to describe it) .....

I chose this event as important because.....

How does this book connect to your own personal life experiences, or other pieces of literature, or historical events? Use AT LEAST 3 pieces of EVIDENCE!

St. James Cathedral School - Middle School Summer Reading Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book #3

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Title

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Author

An important event or idea in this book is (be sure to describe it) .....

I chose this event as important because.....

How does this book connect to your own personal life experiences, or other pieces of literature, or historical events? Use AT LEAST 3 pieces of EVIDENCE!