

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Recommended Summer Reading 2024
Seventh Grade Entering Eighth Grade**

REQUIRED READING - *A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielson

Upon return to school, students should be prepared to complete a classroom activity that correlates with the required reading.

Read at least one of the books from the list below. Choose according to the first letter of your **LAST** name. Each student is required to complete a **Summer Reading Book Report** about this book. Open the link on the Summer Reading page, *Summer Reading Book Report Grade 5-8*, and print it out. Complete and bring the report to school with you on the first day.

Last Name: A - L

***Absolutely Truly* by Heather Vogel** Frederick Truly Lovejoy is accustomed to change. Her father's military career means they move often. But the kind of change that comes when her father loses an arm in Afghanistan and decides to move the family to middle-of-nowhere Pumpkin Falls to take over the family bookstore is a little more than Truly can handle. ©2014 Grade Level 7-8

***Ali Cross* by James Patterson** Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

***As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds** Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

***Code Girls the True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII* by Lizz Mundy** More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. ©2018 Grade Level 8–Up

***Deadly Aim: The Civil War Story of Michigan's Anishinaabe Sharpshooters* by Sally M. Walker** More than 20,000 American Indians served in the Civil War, but their stories have seldom appeared in history books. This book explores the remarkable service of Michigan's Anishinaabe sharpshooters and is filled with photographs, diagrams, and maps. ©2021 Grade Level 7-9

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***Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin** The Cold War game grows more precarious as weapons are pointed towards each other, with fingers literally on the trigger. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third—and final—world war. Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

***Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith** All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II, and the Army forms the WASP-Women Airforce Service Pilots. ©2010 Grade Level 8-9

***Goodbye, Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea** Jeffrey, Alexia, Anna, Danielle, Luke, Peter, and Jessica are thrilled to have their beloved teacher, Mr. Terupt, back for the school year as their biweekly adviser. They still rely on him for guidance on so many things, including these dilemmas. ©2020 Grade Level 7-8

***I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora** When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. ©2015 Grade Level 7-8

***Impossible Escape: A True Story of Survival and Heroism in Nazi Europe* by Steve Sheinkin** It is 1944. A teenager named Rudolf (Rudi) Vrba has made up his mind. After barely surviving nearly two years in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, he knows he *must* escape. Even if death is more likely. Sydney Taylor Book Award Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

Last Name: M - Z

***A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen** With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. ©2015 Grade Level 7-8

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz** Historical novel that braids the stories of three young refugees in three different time periods and settings: 1938 Berlin, 1994 Cuba, and 2015 Syria. The circumstances of all the kids and families are dire, and their journeys are fraught with imminent danger. ©2017 Grade Level 7-8

***Restart* by Gordon Korman** Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again. South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee ©2017 Grade Level 7-9

***Rez Ball* by Byron Graves** When Jaxon's former teammates on the varsity team offer to take Tre under their wing, he sees this as his shot to represent his Ojibwe rez all the way to their first state

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championship. This is the first step toward his dream of playing in the NBA, no matter how much the odds are stacked against him. American Indian Youth Literature Award, William Morris Debut Award ©2023 Grade Level 8-9

Resistance by Jennifer Nielsen Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. ©2018 Grade Level 8-9

Ruby Lost and Found by Christina Li After Ruby gets in major trouble at school, her parents decide she has to spend the summer at a local senior center with her grandmother, Nai-Nai, and Nai-Nai's friends for company. APALA Youth Literature Award ©2023 Grade Level 7-8

They Went Left by Monica Hesse Germany, 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over, but nothing feels over to eighteen-year-old Zofia Lederman. Her body has barely begun to heal, her mind feels broken. And her life is completely shattered: Three years ago, she and her younger brother, Abek, were the only members of their family to be sent to the right, away from the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Everyone else her parents, her grandmother, radiant Aunt Maja—they went left. ©2020 Grade Level 8-10

Walls by L. M. Elliott Drew is an army brat in West Berlin, where soldiers like his dad hold an outpost of democracy against communist Russia. Drew's cousin Matthias, an East Berliner, has grown up in the wreckage of Allied war bombing, on streets ruled by the secret police. ©2021 Grade Level 8-10

We Are Not Free by Traci Chee A story about fourteen teens united by their bonds to each other and their struggles with identity, it is an emotional story of harassment, enemies and resilience. This historical fiction novel examines racism, the ways they are forcibly removed, forced to navigate two halves of themselves. The racism and the fear of harassment was incredibly emotional to read, especially as a fellow person of color (and especially considering the growing Anti-Asian sentiment experienced during the pandemic even though these are in no way similar experiences). ©2020 Grade Level 8-9

We Had To Be Brave by Deborah Hopkinson Ruth David was growing up in a small village in Germany when Adolf Hitler rose to power in the 1930s. Under the Nazi Party, Jewish families like Ruth's experienced rising anti-Semitic restrictions and attacks. Just going to school became dangerous. By November 1938, anti-Semitism erupted into Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, and unleashed a wave of violence and forced arrests. ©2020 Grade Level 8-9