

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel School**  
**Archdiocese of Philadelphia Recommended**  
**Summer Reading 2026**  
**First Grade Entering Second Grade**

**Required Reading: Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea by Cynthia Rylant**

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

***Alex and the Cherry Tree* by Barbara Felsoci-Miller** a heartfelt and charming story about a young girl named Alex who, on a sunny summer afternoon, decides to pick cherries from a tree to help her mother bake pies. However, after picking the cherries, Alex ends up eating them all. The story follows her journey as she learns to take responsibility for her actions and seeks a way to make amends. ©2025 Grade level 1-3

***Billy Miller Makes a Wish* by Kevin Henkes** As Billy blows out the candles on his birthday cake, an ambulance rushes down the street. Could his wish for some excitement have caused a dear neighbor friend to become ill ©2021 Grade Level 2-3

***A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts** Ruben feels like he is the only kid without a bike. His friend Sergio reminds him that his birthday is coming, but Ruben knows that the kinds of birthday gifts he and Sergio receive are not the same. After all, when Ruben's mom sends him to Sonny's corner store for groceries, sometimes she doesn't have enough money for everything on the list. ©2016 Grade Level 2-3

***Blue Sky White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus** An inspiring and patriotic tribute to the beauty of the American flag, a symbol of America's history, landscape, and people. ©2017 Grade Level 2-3

***Caroline's Comets: A True Story* by Emily Arnold McCully** Caroline Herschel (1750–1848) was not only one of the greatest astronomers who ever lived but also the first woman to be paid for her scientific work. ©2017 Grade Level 1-3

***Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon** Dory has her first loose tooth, and, with her usual over-the-top excitement, she cannot stop talking about the tooth fairy. Naturally, this drives her brother and sister crazy. ©2018 Grade Level 1-3

***A Flicker of Hope* by Julian Cook** Sometimes the dark clouds overhead seem too heavy and you feel like giving up. Little candle knows all about this. Bad grades, blasted on social media, worried about making the team, and wondering who her real friends are so many hard things to deal with! All she can see is darkness. ©2018 **Grade Level 2-3**

***The Gravity Tree: The True Story of a Tree That Inspired the World* by Anna Crowley Redding** “A tree may seem like an *ordinary* thing. But hundreds of years ago, a tree was about to embark on an *extraordinary* journey.” Sir Isaac Newton sat under that tree and came up with the theory of gravity, a tree and an idea that has continued to inspire other scientists and people all over the world. ©2021 **Grade Level 2-3**

***The Kid from Diamond Street* by Audrey Vernick** Beginning in 1922, when Edith Houghton was only ten years old, she tried out for a women’s professional baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. ©2016 **Grade Level K-3**

***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena** Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don’t own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn’t he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? ©2015 **Grade Level K-2. Newbery Medal 2016, Caldecott Honor Book 2016, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book**

***Magic Treehouse Dinosaurs Before Dark* by Mary Pope Osbourne** - Before Jack and Annie can find out, the mysterious tree house whisks them to the prehistoric past. Now they have to figure out how to get home. Can they do it before dark...or will they become a dinosaur's dinner? ©1992 **Grade Level 2-4**

***Margaret and the Moon* by Dean Robbins** A true story from one of the Women of NASA! Margaret Hamilton loved numbers as a young girl. She knew how many miles it was to the moon (and how many back). She loved studying algebra and geometry and calculus and using math to solve problems in the outside world. ©2017 **Grade Level 2-3**

***Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* by Carole Boston Weatherford** - a poetic look at Harriet Tubman's bravery with the Underground Railroad. ©2006 **Grade Level K-3. Caldecott Honor 2007**

***Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland* by Tomie dePaola** - a vibrant story about St. Patrick's life. ©1992 **Grade Level K-2**

***Play It Again, Grandpa* by Jennifer Hunsicker** A young boy and his grandfather spend front-porch time playing music and learning from each other. Their music draws in family, friends, and neighbors for enjoyment, dancing, singing, and playing a variety of bluegrass instruments. A picture glossary of the instruments is included in the back as well as a brief history and explanation of bluegrass music. ©2021 **Grade Level 1-3**

***The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies** Evan, a fox, and his dog are best friends and in a series of acrylic, oil, and colored pencil vignettes, they are shown attending a fair, playing games, and, most important, working in Evan's meticulously groomed garden. These loving scenes are abruptly cut short by a large spread of white space with spare text stating: "But one day, the unthinkable happened." On the opposing page, white space surrounds a grieving Evan as he mourns the loss of his dog. ©2019 **Grade Level 1-3. Caldecott Honor Book 2018**

***Spoon* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal** He's always been a happy little utensil. But lately, he feels like life as a spoon just isn't cutting it. He thinks Fork, Knife, and The Chopsticks all have it so much better than him. But do they? ©2009 **Grade Level 1-2**

***Spring According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney** Spring has sprung and everyone at Longfellow School, including Ms. Brisbane's class, are HAPPY-HAPPY-HAPPY! It also means Family Fun Night is coming up and all the students' families are involved in making amazing circus activities. ©2017 **Grade Level 2-4**

***Trombone Shorty* by Troy Andrews** - a true story about perseverance in music. ©2015 **Grade Level K-5. Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award 2016**

***The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams** - a touching story about love and kindness. ©1922 **Grade Level K-3**

***We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom** - a powerful story about environmental stewardship. ©20120 **Grade Level K-2. Caldecott Medal 2021**

***What's Your Favorite Color?* by Eric Carle** Fifteen beloved children's book artists draw their favorite colors and explain why they love them. This personal collection will undoubtedly inspire readers to create favorite color drawings and stories of their own! ©2017 **Grade Level 2-3**

