

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL  
RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING 2023  
Second Grade Entering Third Grade**

**REQUIRED READING – Any *Magic Tree House* Book by Mary Pope Osborne**

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

***All That's Missing* by Sarah Sullivan** Secretly providing for himself and a beloved grandfather who is succumbing to dementia, young Arlo is placed in the care of a social worker and runs away to find and connect with his only other family member. ©2013 Grade Level 3-7

***Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade* by Melissa Sweet** Everyone's a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day, when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. **Robert F. Sibert Medal, NCTE Orbis Pictus Award** ©2011 Grade Level 3-4

***Bunnica* by Deborah and James Howe** Before it's too late, Harold the dog and Chester the cat must find out the truth about the newest pet in the Monroe household—a suspicious-looking bunny with unusual habits and fangs! ©1979 & ©2010 Grade Level 3-4

***A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold** Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter. ©2018 Grade Level: 3-5

***The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss* by Kathleen Krull** "Once upon a time, there lived a boy who feasted on books and was wild about animals." So begins this young biography of Dr. Seuss. ©2018 Grade Level 3-4

***Chocolate Fever* by Robert K. Smith** Henry Green doesn't just like chocolate...he's crazy about it! Read how Henry comes down with the world's first case of "chocolate fever." ©1972 & ©2006 Grade Level 3-4

***Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin** Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. **Caldecott Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book** ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

***The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest* by Lynna Cherry** The many animals that live in a great Kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home. ©2000 Grade Level 3-5

***The Hero Two Doors Down* by Sharon Robinson** Based on the true story of a boy in Brooklyn who became neighbors and friends with his hero, Jackie Robinson. ©2017 Grade Level 4-5

***John Lincoln Clem: a Civil War Drummer Boy* by E. F. Abbott** Do you have what it takes to run off and join the army, leaving your family behind? That's what John Lincoln Clem, a nine-year-old boy living in Ohio, does as the American Civil War rages on. ©2017 Grade Level 3-4

***Meet George Washington* by Joan Heilbroner** George Washington grew up in the English colony of Virginia. He was tall and strong, fair in judgment, and respected by his friends as a good leader. As he grew older, George saw how England took advantage of the American colonies—and he didn't like it. ©2001 Grade Level 3-4

***Rocket to the Moon* by Don Brown** On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong took "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" when Apollo 11 landed on the moon. But it wasn't just one man who got us to the moon. ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

**St. John Bosco and His Big Gray Dog by Hayley Medeiros** It is hard to believe that anyone would have ever wanted to hurt good Father John Bosco. He helped so many people. But there were times when his life was in danger. During those times, a very special guardian would appear to protect him. ©2015 Grade Level 2-4

**St. George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges** The tale of Saint George, the Red Cross Knight, slaying the dragon that had been terrorizing the countryside for years. Caldecott Medal ©1984 & ©1990 Grade Level 2-3

**The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow** Hunting for seashells and building sandcastles, this tribute to the power of imagination and the tenderness of a mother-child connection is also a sweet ode to summer's greatest pastimes. ©2015 Grade Level 2-3

**Separate is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh** Seven years before Brown v. Board of Education, the Mendez family fought to end segregation in California schools. Jane Addams Award ©2014 Grade Level 3-4

**Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero by Patricia McCormick** When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to a packhorse. ©2017 Grade Level 1-5

**Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille by Jen Bryant** Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. ©2016 Grade Level 2-4

**The Sign of the Carved Cross by Lisa M. Hende** Katie joins her friends in being mean to the new girl, Lily. But suddenly, Katie becomes the new girl—in 1675! She has no idea how she traveled in time to a Native American village, but she's hoping the young woman she meets will be nicer to her than Katie was to Lily. ©2015 Grade Level 3-5

**Stargazing by Jen Wang** Moon is everything Christine isn't. She's confident, impulsive, artistic and though they both grew up in the same Chinese-American suburb, Moon is somehow unlike anyone Christine has ever known. ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

**The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander** This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. Caldecott Medal, Newbery Honor Book, and Coretta Scott King ©2019 Grade Level 3-4

**Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford** Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Caldecott Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, and John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award ©2015 Grade Level 3-6

**The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers) by Lisa M. Hende** Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

**Wish by Barbara O'Connor** "A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are." ©2016 Grade Level 3-5

**Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes** Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons. Newbery Honor Book @2013 Grade Level 3-4