

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL
RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING 2023
Seventh Grade Entering Eighth Grade**

REQUIRED READING – *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

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

***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston** Quinton Peters was the golden boy of the Rosewood low-income housing projects, receiving full scholarship offers to two different Ivy League schools. When he mysteriously goes missing, his little sister, 13-year-old Amari Peters, can't understand why it's not a bigger deal. Why isn't his story all over the news? And why do the police automatically assume he was into something illegal? **NAACP Image Award, Coretta Scott King Author Book Award ©2021 Grade Level 7-8**

***Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson** For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. **©2022 Grade Level 7-8**

***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose**

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor ©2016 Grade Level 8-10**

***Brother's Keeper* by Julie Lee** Twelve-year-old Sora and her family live under an iron set of rules: No travel without a permit. No criticism of the government. No absences from Communist meetings. Wear red. Hang pictures of the Great Leader. Don't trust your neighbors. Don't speak your mind. You are being watched. **©2020 Grade Level 7-8**

***Code Talker: A Novel About The Navajo Marines Of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac** After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during WW2 in his native tongue. **©2005 Grade Level 7-9**

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick** When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. **©2005 Grade Level 7-8**

***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick** Two boys—a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces—forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. **©2001 Grade Level 7-8**

***Good Different* by Meg Eden Kuyatt** Selah knows her rules for being normal. She always, always sticks to them. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on, so that she has to run to the bathroom and hide in the stall until she can calm down. So that she has to tear off her normal-person mask the second she gets home from school, and listen to her favorite pop song on repeat, trying to recharge. **©2023 Grade Level 7-8**

Last Name: M - Z

***Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II* by Marin W. Sandler** While Americans fought for freedom and democracy abroad, fear and suspicion towards Japanese Americans swept the country after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. ©2013 **Grade Level 7–Up**

***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera** There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children—among them Petra and her family—have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. **Newbery Medal, Pura Belpré Award ©2021 Grade Level 7-8**

***Lily's Ghost* by Laura Ruby** Lily is Furious. She can't believe she has to move again after her mom's break-up with the latest boyfriend. Now they're broke and they'll have to spend the winter in Uncle Wes's creepy summerhouse in Cape May, New Jersey. And the place is crawling with ghosts. ©2005 **Grade Level 7-8**

***Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt** In this companion novel to *The Wednesday Wars*, Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. **National Book Award Finalist ©2011 Grade Level 8–9**

***Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Giff** Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. She is a mountain of trouble. She runs away even from the Regans, the one family who offers her a home. **Newbery Honor ©2004 Grade Level 7-8**

***The 13 Clocks* by Deckle Edge** The hands of all thirteen clocks stand still in the gloomy castle on a lonely hill where a wicked Duke lives with his niece, the beautiful Princess Saralinda. The Duke fancies he has frozen time, for he is afraid that one day a Prince may come and win away the hand of the Princess—the only warm hand in the castle. ©2016 **Grade Level 7-8**

***The Underneath* by Kathi Appelt** A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath. **Newbery Honor, National Book Award Finalist ©2004 Grade Level 7-8**

***Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of the "Children's Ship"* by Deborah Heiligman** Amid the constant rain of German bombs and the escalating violence of World War II, British parents by the thousands chose to send their children out of the country: the wealthy, independently; the poor, through a government relocation program called CORB. In September 1940, passenger liner SS *City of Benares* set sail for Canada with one hundred children on board. **Golden Kite Award ©2023 Grade Level 6-8**