

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel School**  
**Archdiocese of Philadelphia**  
**Recommended Summer Reading 2024**  
**Kindergarten Entering First Grade**

**REQUIRED READING - *The Listening Walk* by Paul Showers**

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

*Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal When Alma's father shares family stories about the origins of her long beautiful name, she gains an appreciation for its uniqueness and connection to her history. Martinez-Neal uses smudgy graphite and colored pencil to convey a soft palette that gently transports readers into Alma's rich ancestral past. Caldecott Honor Book American Award for Literature ©2018 Grade Level 1

*Big* by Vashti Harrison Traces a child's journey to self-love and shows the power of words to both hurt and heal. With spare text and exquisite illustrations, this emotional exploration of being big in a world that prizes small is a tender portrayal of how you can stand out and feel invisible at the same time. Caldecott Medal Winner & Coretta Scott King Honor @2023 Grade Level 1

*The Crayons Go Back to School* by Drew Daywalt The crayons are getting ready to go back to school, and each crayon has a subject they're looking forward to the most. They're also ready to meet new friends. . . and let loose during their very favorite time of day: art class. A humorous, small hardcover back-to-school story from everyone's favorite school supplies. ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

*Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. 2021 Nerdy Award Winner ©2021 Grade Level 1

*Fox Has a Problem* by Corey R. Tabor Fox has a problem: His kite is stuck in a tree! But every clever plan creates even more problems for him—and for all his friends. Can they work together to fix things before it's too late? Theodor Seuss Geisel Award ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

*Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates* by Cheryl Klein It's been two hundred and five days since Henry has had peace. That's because it's been two hundred and five days since Marvin has come to live with him. Marvin, who loves to talk in the tunnels, talk while they're eating, talk while they're running. Marvin, who drives Henry up the cage walls. But when Henry finally loses his cool and gets exactly what he wanted, both hamsters have to figure out a way to live together and work through their communication mishaps. Kirkus Children's Best Book ©2021 Grade Level 1

*Have You Ever Seen a Flower?* by Shawn Harris Encourages mindfulness, appreciation of nature and the world around us, and exploring themes of self-acceptance and the senses in a lighthearted yet thought-provoking way. Caldecott Honor Book ©2021 Grade Level 1

**March 21, 2024**

***Is God Still Awake?: A Small Girl with a Big Question About God* by Sheila Walsh** *Is God Still Awake?* introduces curious young readers to Poppy: a little girl who has big questions about God! Poppy wants to know how to talk with God and whether God listens to her. As she goes through her day with her cat by her side, Poppy discovers that God is always there--even when the world is asleep! ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion* by Shannon Stocker** From the moment Evelyn Glennie heard her first note, music held her heart. She played the piano by ear at age eight, and the clarinet by age ten. But soon, the nerves in her ears began to deteriorate, and Evelyn was told that, as a deaf girl, she could never be a musician. Schneider Family Book Award ©2022 Grade Level 1

***Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor** A tale about self-confidence and taking a leap of faith, starring a kingfisher. Sometimes, you might fall down,down,down,before you learn to fly up, up, up. 2022 Caldecott Honor Book, ALA Notable Book of the Year ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Pass the Ball, Mo! (Mo Jackson)* by David A. Adler** Mo's latest obsession is basketball. He's determined to learn how to pass, but as the shortest member of the team, he can't seem to launch the ball high enough. Can Mo learn to pass in time to help his team win the big game? Theodor Seuss Geisel Award ©2019 Grade Level 1

***Something: One Small Thing Can Make a Difference* by Natalee Creech** Based on a familiar passage from Matthew 25, this picture book explores themes of compassion and empathy, encouraging children to take positive action when they see a need in the world around them. From big things—like helping to plant a community garden or trying to find a home for an animal in need—to small things—like making a card or welcoming someone new there is always something we can do! ©2021 Grade Level 1

***Sounds Like School Spirit* by Meg Fleming** They have spirit, yes they do! Follow kids from circle time to the lunch line in this lively, rhyming picture book that perfectly matches the high energy of a new classroom. With a call and response like "We say ALPHA, you say BET," built into the text, kids will love reading and cheering along. ©2021 Grade Level 1

***The Truth About Dragons* by Julie Leung** Follows a young child on a journey guided by his mother's bedtime storytelling. He quests into two very different forests, as his two grandmothers help him discover two different, but equally enchanting, truths about dragons. Caldecott Honor and Asian Pacific ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

***Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer** When two curious kids embark on a "wonder walk," they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see: Is the sun the world's light bulb? Is dirt the world's skin? Are rivers the earth's veins? Is the wind the world breathing? I wonder. Caldecott Honor Book ©2022 Grade Level 1