

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

REQUIRED READING - *Mr. Putter and Tabby Ring the Bell* by Cynthia Rylant
Upon return to school, students should be prepared to complete a classroom activity that correlates with the required reading.

***Built to Last* by Minh Lê** Two kids build entire worlds out of blocks, cardboard, and imagination. From boats attacked by a sea creature to a castle crumbling into the ocean. And they don't mind when these creations break apart and CRASH to the floor. In fact, they think it's pretty funny! Every time a creation falls apart, they pick up the pieces and keep building bigger and better. ©2024 Grade Level 2-3

***Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln* by Margarita Engle** As a little girl, Teresa Carreño loved to let her hands dance across the beautiful keys of the piano. If she felt sad, music cheered her up, and when she was happy, the piano helped her share that joy. Soon she was writing her own songs and performing in grand cathedrals. Pura Belpré Illustrator Award, A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book ©2019 Grade Level 2-3

***Discovering the Land of Virtues with Grandma Eliza* by Mary Elizabeth Feda** Enter a land of comfort and peace! Join hands with Grandma Eliza, Madeline and Felicity in an unexpected adventure to a special land where heavenly creatures greet you and guide you on your journey. Discover with them as they explore the town filled with peace, love and joy. ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Extra Yarn* by Max Barnett** A young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a community in this stunning picture book. With spare, gently humorous illustrations and a palette that moves from black-and-white to a range of color, this modern fairy tale has the feel of a new classic. Caldecott Honor Book, *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award* ©2018 Grade Level 2

***Floaty* by John Himmelman** Blah! Mr. Raisin is a bit of a grump. He lives all alone in a little house, and he likes it that way just fine. One day, a mysterious basket appears on Mr. Raisin's doorstep. When he opens it up, it seems there's nothing inside until he notices a floating dog bobbing along his ceiling. ©2018 Grade Level 1-2

***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard** Fry Bread is an evocative depiction of a modern Native American family. Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal, American Indian Youth Literature Picture Book Honor Winner, Pura Belpré Award, and Caldecott Honor Book ©2019 Grade Level 2-3

***A Flicker of Hope* by Julia Cook** HOPE is our children's window for a better tomorrow. In terms of resilience and well-being, hope is a critically important predictor of success. This creative story from the best-selling author of *My Mouth is a Volcano!*, and *Bubble Gum Brain*, reminds children that dark clouds can be temporary and asking for help is always okay. We all have times when we need to borrow a little hope from someone else. ©2018 Grade Level 2

March 21, 2024

***Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Spider* by Jessica Lanan** What if you were small as a bean. Could walk on the walls and ceiling. Sense vibrations through your elbows and jump five times your body length? That is Jumper's world. Sibert Honor Book and NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book ©2023 Grade Level 1-2

***The Little Flower: The Story of St. Therese of the Child Jesus* by Mary Fabyan Windeatt** This book tells what happened to little Therese: It shows how Therese received a second mother when she lost her first mother, how she was teased at school, and how she was cured of being a crybaby. It tells about her mysterious illness, her miraculous cure, her First Holy Communion, the terrible criminal whose soul she won back for God, and what she decided to do when she grew up. ©1992 Grade Level 1-3

***Love Letters from God* by Glenys Nellist** What child does not love to receive mail? What if your child could receive and read his or her own personal mail from God? Love Letters from God will invite them to do just that! In this new updated edition, 18 of the most popular Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments are accompanied by a special and encouraging letter from God to your beloved child. ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Just Help!: How to Build a Better World* by Sonia Sotomayor** Every night when Sonia goes to bed, Mami asks her the same question: *How did you help today?* And since Sonia wants to help her community, just like her Mami does, she always makes sure she has a good answer to Mami's question. ©2022 Grade Level 2-3

***Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina** Mia's abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. While they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English, and Mia learns some Spanish, too, but it's still hard for Abuela to learn enough words to tell Mia her stories. Then Mia sees a parrot in the pet-shop window and has the perfect idea for how to help them all communicate a little better. Pura Belpré Award ©2017 Grade Level 2

***Margaret and the Pope Go to Assisi* by Jon M. Sweeney** Margaret and the Pope travel for the first time together away from the Vatican and out of Rome. They go by train to the Umbrian hill town of Assisi, a place of pilgrimage for Christians all over the world who want to remember the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Together they visit the great Basilica named for St. Francis, greet Franciscan friars at the monastery, attend a World Day of Prayer for Peace, meet religious leaders (each, it seems, with a very different hat!) from around the world, and see evidence of the spirit of St. Francis all over town. ©2020 Grade Level 2

***Maybe* by Kobi Yamada** You are the only you there ever has been or ever will be. You are unique in all the universe. Just the odds of you being here at this exact place and this exact time are so great and so rare that it will never happen again. ©2019 Grade Level 2-3

***Two New Years* by Richard Ho** A multicultural family celebrates the traditions of two New Years—the Jewish Rosh Hashanah in the autumn, and the Asian Lunar New Year several months later. Sydney Taylor Gold Medalist and National Jewish Book Award Winner ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Straw* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal** Straw has always had a great thirst for being first, slurping up anything in sight and rushing straight to the finish in every situation. But when his speedy streak gets the best of him, it takes a friend to show Straw how to take his time and drink in the amazing world around him. ©2020 Grade Level 2

***Three Hens, a Peacock, and the Enormous Egg* by Lester L. Laminack** Animals rescue an enormous egg that fell off of a truck. The egg lands on the road in ©2023 Grade Level 2

***There Was a Party for Langston* by Jason Reynolds** Back in the day, there was a heckuva party, a jam, for a word-making man. The King of Letters. Langston Hughes. His ABCs became drums, bumping, jumping, thumping like a heart the size of the whole country. They sent some people yelling and others, his word-children, to write their own glory. Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor ©2023 Grade Level 2

***Watercress* by Andrea Wang** While driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's Chinese immigrant parents spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. They stop the car, grabbing rusty scissors and an old paper bag, and the whole family wades into the mud to gather as much as they can. Caldecott Medal Winner, Newbery Honor Book, and APALA Award Winner ©2021 Grade Level 2-3

***The World Belonged to Us* by Jacqueline Woodson** It's getting hot outside, hot enough to turn on the hydrants and run through the water--and that means it's finally summer in the city! Released from school and reveling in their freedom, the kids on one Brooklyn block take advantage of everything summertime has to offer: Freedom from morning till night to go out to meet their friends and make the streets their playground--jumping double Dutch, playing tag and hide-and-seek, building forts, chasing ice cream trucks, and best of all, believing anything is possible. ©2022 Grade Level 2-3