

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel School**  
**Archdiocese of Philadelphia**  
**Recommended Summer Reading 2024**  
**Third Grade Entering Fourth Grade**

**REQUIRED READING - *Jake Drake, Bully Buster* by Andrew Clements**

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

*Alone* by **Megan E. Freeman** When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. ©2021 Grade Level 4-6

*Beyond the Bright Sea* by **Lauren Wolk** Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. 2018 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction ©2018 Grade Level 4-6

*Eagle Drums* by **Nasugraq Rainey Hopson** As his family prepares for winter, a young, skilled hunter must travel up the mountain to collect obsidian for knapping—the same mountain where his two older brothers died. When he reaches the mountaintop, he is immediately confronted by a terrifying eagle god named Savik. Savik gives the boy a choice: follow me or die like your brothers. What comes next is a harrowing journey to the home of the eagle gods and unexpected lessons on the natural world, the past that shapes us, and the community that binds us. Newbery Honor Book, American Indian in Youth Literature Award Honor Book, and A NPR Best Book of the Year ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

*Elf Dog and Owl Head* by **M. T. Anderson** Clay has had his fill of home life. A global plague has brought the world to a screeching halt, and with little to look forward to but a summer of video-calling friends, vying with annoying sisters for the family computer, and tuning out his parents' financial worries, he's only too happy to retreat to the woods. Newbery Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 4

*Escape From Chernobyl* by **Andy Marino** Alina & Lev are two siblings living in Pripjat, one of the Soviet Union's proud nuclear cities. Both are asleep in their beds. Their cousin, Yuri, is a custodian at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, where he's fiercely attacking a spill in the hallway with a mop. Alina's best friend, Sofiya, sleeps just a few doors down. Her father is an engineer at the plant, a fact that has always filled her with pride. ©2021 Grade Level 4

*Ferris* by **Kate DiCamillo** It's the summer before fifth grade, and for Ferris Wilkey, it is a summer of sheer pandemonium: Her little sister, Pinky, has vowed to become an outlaw. Uncle Ted has left Aunt Shirley and, to Ferris's mother's chagrin, is holed up in the Wilkey basement to paint a history of the world. ©2024 Grade Level 4-5

**March 21, 2024**

***Finally Seen* by Kelly Yang** When ten-year-old Lina Gao steps off the plane in Los Angeles, it's her first time in America *and* the first time seeing her parents and her little sister in five years! She's been waiting for this moment every day while she lived with her grandmother in Beijing, getting teased by kids at school who called her "left behind girl." ©2024 Grade Level 4-5

***Full of Beans* by Jennifer L. Holm** Grown-ups lie. That's one truth Beans knows for sure. He and his gang know how to spot a whopper a mile away, because they are the savviest bunch of barefoot conchs (that means "locals") in all of Key West. Not that Beans really minds; it's 1934, the middle of the Great Depression. With no jobs on the island, and no **money anywhere, who** can really blame the grown-ups for telling a few tales? Scott O'Dell Award ©2018 Grade Level 4-5

***Grasshopper Summer* by Ann Turner** In 1874, eleven-year-old Sam White and his family are moving from Kentucky to the Dakota Territory. These hardy pioneers know it will be hard work, but they don't expect the devastating plague that comes like an unstoppable force to sweep away all their hopes for the future. They will cope. ©2000 Grade Level 4-5

***How Do You Spell Unfair?: MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee* by Carole Boston** In 1936, eighth grader MacNolia Cox became the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio, spelling bee. And with that win, she was asked to compete at the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, where she and a girl from New Jersey were the first African Americans invited since its founding. Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 4

***Just a Girl: A True Story of World War II* by Lia Levi** During Mussolini's reign, Lia and her family leave their home because of the persecution of Jews. Based on her adult memoir, Levi retells her story through the eyes of a child experiencing racism and hatred of Jews during the period. Mildred L. Batchelder Award ©2022 Grade Level 4

***The Last Mapmaker* by Christina Soontornvat** 12-year-old Sai has been working hard and saving every penny she can as an assistant to the kingdom's most illustrious mapmaker, Paiyoon. But if Paiyoon, or anyone else, ever found out the truth about Sai and her father, her chance of escaping poverty would disappear forever. Newbery Honor Book, Walter Dean Myers Honor Book ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer L. Holm** Bell is just like any other kid. He loves cats, eats all kinds of cake, and is curious about everything. Oh, and he lives on another planet! Living on Mars comes with a ton of rules. Like don't go outside without a buddy. Always keep a glow stick in your pocket. And no contact with the kids in the other settlements. ©2022 Grade Level 4-6

***The Lost Library* by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass** When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight in the small town of Martinville, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change. ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***Love from Your Friend, Hannah* by Mindy Warshaw Skolsky** Hannah's best friend, Aggie, moves away and doesn't answer a single one of her letters. Determined to find a new pen pal, Hannah picks an address from a box on her teacher's desk. It's a boy, but his first letter is so

dopey, Hannah isn't even going to answer it. Instead, she writes to President Roosevelt. Before long, Hannah has a whole lot of pen pals--and finally discovers the perfect friend, in the most unlikely place. ©1999 Grade Level 4-5

***Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yee** Maizy has never been to Last Chance, Minnesota until now. Her mom's plan is just to stay for a couple weeks, until her grandfather gets better. But plans change, and as Maizy spends more time in Last Chance and at the Golden Palace the restaurant that's been in her family for generations—she makes some discoveries. Newbery Honor Award, National Book Award Finalist, and Asian/Pacific American Award For Youth Literature ©2022 Grade Level 4-6

***Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga** Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. Newbery Honor Book ©2021 Grade Level 4-6

***Something Like Home* by Andrea Beatriz Arango** So when Laura finds a puppy, it seems like fate. If she can train the puppy to become a therapy dog, then maybe she'll be allowed to visit her parents. Maybe the dog will help them get better and things will finally go back to the way they should be. Newbery Honor Award ©2023 Grade Level 4-6

***Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly** From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be. Schneider Family Book Award ©2019 Grade Level 4-5

***We Are Family* by LeBron James and Andrea Williams** Jayden Carr has been training all summer to be ready for Hoop Group—the free after school basketball program where his hero, NBA superstar Kendrick King, got his start. But when his beloved coach tells him there's not going to be a Hoop Group this year, Jayden is heartbroken. ©2021 Grade Level 4-5