

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

REQUIRED READING - *Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo

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

***Bandy* by Craig R. Hipkins** Isaac, with Joy, escape into the backwoods of Virginia. Discovering passages of the Underground Railroad, stowing away in carriages, hiding in churches, and outwitting the mercenaries hired by Jericho, the two teens fight tooth and nail to make it to Boston before they're caught. Will Joy be taken from this life by sickness before she's found freedom? On their journey, they learn a lot about each other. Isaac promises to bring Joy to Bandy's pond, a heavenly place where peace and serenity reign. ©2024 Grade Level 5-7

***Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna* by Alda P. Dobbs** It is 1913, and 12-year-old Petra witnesses the tragedies of the Mexican Revolution. Her mother is dead, her father is missing, and Petra must look after her elderly grandmother, her younger sister, and her little brother. Their only hope is to make it to the U.S. border and find a way to cross the Rio Grande. Soldiers, broken infrastructure, and the desert stand in their way. 2022 Pura Belpré Honor Book, NYPL Best Book of 2022, Texas Bluebonnet Master List Selection, and NPR Best Book of 2022 ©2022 Grade Level 5-6

***The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman** On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna. In their new lives in Leningrad, they begin to learn what it means to trust another person. National Jewish Book Award Winner, Sydney Taylor Middle Grade Honor Book ©2021 Grade Level 5-6

***The Eyes and the Impossible* by Dave Eggers** Johannes, a free dog, lives in an urban park by the sea. His job is to be the Eyes—to see everything that happens within the park and report back to the park's elders, three ancient Bison. His friends—a seagull, a raccoon, a squirrel, and a pelican—work with him as the Assistant Eyes, observing the humans and other animals who share the park and making sure the Equilibrium is in balance. Newbery Medal ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

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***The Firefly Summer* by Morgan Matson** For as long as Ryanna Stuart can remember, her summers have been spent with her father and his new wife. Just the three of them, structured, planned, and quiet. But this summer is different. This summer, she's received a letter from her grandparents—grandparents neither she nor her dad have spoken to since her mom's death—inviting her to stay with them at an old summer camp in the Poconos. ©2023 Grade Level 5-6

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez** There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

***The Girl Who Looked Beyond The Stars* by L. B. Anne** Sheena Meyer is the girl who brings an extra lunch to school each day just in case someone doesn't have lunch. She's also the girl who questions and investigates everything, driving her parents and teachers nuts. She spends most days waiting for some grand event to happen and change her life, but she won't have to wait much longer. ©2019 Grade Level 5–7

***I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day** All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers. Until the day when she and her friends discover a box hidden in the attic—a box full of letters signed "Love, Edith," and photos of a woman who looks just like her. ©2019 Grade Level 5-6

***Lasagna Means I Love You* by Kate O'Shaughnessy** Nan was all the family Mo ever needed. But suddenly she's gone, and Mo finds herself in foster care after her uncle decides she's not worth sticking around for. ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

***The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine* by Katherine Marsh** Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His journalist dad is stuck overseas indefinitely, and his mom has moved in with his one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother to ride out the pandemic, adding to his stress and isolation. But when Matthew finds a tattered black-and-white photo in his great-grandmother's belongings, he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past, one that will lead to a life-shattering family secret. Jane Addams Children's Book Award, Notable Social Studies Trade Book ©2023 Grade Level 5-8

Last Name: M - Z

***Not an Easy Win* by Chrystal D. Giles** Nothing's gone right for Lawrence since he had to move from Charlotte to Lareville, North Carolina, to live with his granny. When Lawrence ends up in one too many fights at his new school, he gets expelled. The fight wasn't his fault, but since his pop's been gone, it feels like no one listens to what Lawrence has to say. ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

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***Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park** A girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend. Hanna, a half-Asian girl in a small town in America's heartland, lives in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, and the townspeople's prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. ©2020 Grade Level 5–6

***Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca** Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma. Although their names are linked—Reha means “star” and Punam means “moon”—they are a universe apart. ©2021 Grade Level 5-7

***The Seventh Wish* by Kate Messner** When Charlie Brennan goes ice fishing on her town's frozen lake, she's hoping the fish she reels in will help pay for her dream: a fancy Irish dancing dress for her upcoming competition. But when Charlie's first catch of the day happens to be a talking fish offering her a wish in exchange for its freedom, her world quickly turns upside down, as her wishes go terribly and hilariously wrong. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

***Shadow Jumper* by J. M. Forster** The truth is out there somewhere but how far is Jack willing to jump to find it? Jack Phillips's allergy to sunshine confines him to the shadows, leaving him lonely and at risk of life-threatening burns every time he steps into the light. Shadow jumping on the rooftops at dusk makes him feel alive. And free. But Jack's condition is suddenly worse than ever and only his missing scientist dad can save him. ©2014 Grade Level 5-7

***The Superteacher Project* by Gordon Korman** Oliver Zahn, spitball champion and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as “pupils.” The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It's time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the new teacher who's boss. ©2023 Grade Level 5-6

***Wildoak* by C. C. Harrington** Maggie Stephens's stutter makes school especially hard. She will do almost anything to avoid speaking in class or calling attention to herself. So when her unsympathetic father threatens to send her away for so-called “treatment,” she reluctantly agrees to her mother's intervention plan: a few weeks in the fresh air of Wildoak Forest, visiting a grandfather she hardly knows. Schneider Family Book Award ©2022 Grade Level 5-7

***The Worlds We Leave Behind* by A. F. Harrold** Hex doesn't know why he does the things he does—why he sometimes stands up in class to look out the window or ask an unrelated question or do a little dance. He also doesn't know why he threw the rock that day in the woods. He didn't *mean* for the girl to fall and break her arm. But he's blamed anyway. ©2023 Grade Level 5-7

***Wretched Waterpark* by Kiersten White** Meet the Sinister-Winterbottoms: brave Theo, her timid twin, Alexander, and their older sister, Wil. They're stuck for the summer with their Aunt Saffronia, who doesn't know how often children need to eat and can't use a smartphone, and whose feet never quite seem to touch the floor when she glides or walks. ©2022 Grade Level 5-7

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