

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
Archdiocese of Philadelphia Recommended
Summer Reading 2026
Second Grade Entering Third Grade

Required Reading: Magic Tree House Book by Mary Pope Osborne

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

***Bad Bella* by Ali Standish** All Bella wants is a family who loves her for the dog she is. And perhaps some popcorn now and then (with extra butter). But with Christmas growing nearer and a new baby on the way, her adopted family finds that they have little patience and even less time for a dog. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-4**

***A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K. Arnold** Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat’s mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter. ©2018 **Grade Level: 3-5**

***Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White** - a touching story about friendship and self-sacrifice. ©1952 **Grade Level 3-7. Newberry Honor 1953, Horn Book Fanfare 1952**

***Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliot** When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's not his grandmother--but she is a witch! She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. There are two rules when it comes to the dragons: don't let them out of the bag, and don't feed them anything sweet. ©2018 **Grade Level 3-4**

***Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin** Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. **2018 Caldecott Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book** ©2017 **Grade Level 3-5**

***Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levin** - a true story of a boy escaping slavery. ©2007 **Grade Level K-3. Caldecott Honor 2008**

***The Hero Two Doors Down* by Sharon Robinson** Based on the true story of a boy in Brooklyn who became neighbors and friends with his hero, Jackie Robinson. ©2017
Grade Level 4-5

***John Lincoln Clem: a Civil War Drummer Boy* by E. F. Abbott** Do you have what it takes to run off and join the army, leaving your family behind? That's what John Lincoln Clem, a nine-year-old boy living in Ohio, does as the American Civil War rages on.
©2017 **Grade Level 3-4**

***Max and Benedict: A Bird's Eye View of the Pope's Daily Life* by Jeanne Perego** - a fun introduction to the Pope's Life. ©2009 **Grade Level 3-4**

***The Miracles of Jesus* by Tomie dePaola** - a beautifully illustrated retelling of Jesus's miracles ©1987 **Grade Level K-3**

***Rocket to the Moon* by Don Brown** On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong took “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” when Apollo 11 landed on the moon. But it wasn't just one man who got us to the moon. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-4**

***St. John Bosco and His Big Gray Dog* by Hayley Medeiros** It is hard to believe that anyone would have ever wanted to hurt good Father John Bosco. He helped so many people. But there were times when his life was in danger. During those times, a very special guardian would appear to protect him. ©2015 **Grade Level 2-4**

***Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan** - a heartwarming story about family and new beginnings. ©1985 **Grade Level 3-4. Newbery Medal 1986**

***The Seashore Book* by Charlotte Zolotow** Hunting for seashells and buildings and castles, this tribute to the power of imagination and the tenderness of a mother-child connection is also a sweet ode to summer's greatest pastimes. ©2015 **Grade Level 2-3**

***Separate is Never Equal* by Duncan Tonatiuh** Seven years before Brown v. Board of Education, the Mendez family fought to end segregation in California schools. ©2014 **Grade Level 3-4. Jane Addams Award**

***Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick** When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to a packhorse. ©2017 **Grade Level 1-5**

***Sideway Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar** - a funny and quirky book that kids love. ©1978 **Grade Level 3-7**

***The Sign of the Carved Cross* by Lisa M. Hendey** Katie joins her friends in being mean to the new girl, Lily. But suddenly, Katie becomes the new girl—in 1675! She has no idea how she traveled in time to a Native American village, but she's hoping the young woman she meets will be nicer to her than Katie was to Lily. ©2015 **Grade Level 3-5**

***Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant** Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. ©2016 **Grade Level 2-4**

***The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander** This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. ©2019 **Grade Level 3-4. Caldecott Medal, Newbery Honor Book, and Coretta Scott King**

***The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers)* by Lisa M. Hendey** Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 **Grade Level 2-5**

***Wish* by Barbara O'Connor** "A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are." ©2016 **Grade Level 3-5**