

Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
Archdiocese of Philadelphia Recommended
Summer Reading 2026
Sixth Grade Entering Seventh Grade

Required Reading: *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

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. 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.

***Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: Journey to the Summit* by Ana Maria Vazquez** - biography for young readers, highlighting Pier Giorgio's vibrant and adventurous life. It showcases his student antics, athletic prowess, social justice activism, and dedication to helping the poor. ©2004 Grade Level 5-12

***The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare** - Daniel, a young Jew in first-century Galilee, who seeks revenge against the Romans after his father's death. Daniel, fueled by hatred and a desire for vengeance, joins an outlaw band, but his life takes a turn when he encounters Jesus of Nazareth. ©1961 Grade Level 5-7

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson** - Follows the author's childhood growing up as an African American girl in the 1960s and 70s, divided between South Carolina and New York. ©2004 Grade Level 5-12. **National Book Award for Young People's Literature, a Newbery Honor, and the Coretta Scott King Author Award**

***The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass** - Four children have been chosen to compete in a national competition to find the tastiest confection in the country. Who will invent a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Lightning Chew? ©2010 Grade Level 7-8

***Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson** - a historical fiction novel that follows 13-year-old Isabel Finch as she navigates the challenges of slavery in New York City during the American Revolution. ©2008 Grade Level 5-9. **National Book Award finalist, Scott**

O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, ALA Notable Children's Books, ILA Teachers' Choices, Booklist Editors' Choice

***City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau** - an underground city built as a refuge, residents live in darkness, relying on artificial light. When the city's power begins to fail and supplies dwindle, two children, Lina and Doon, discover clues hinting at a way out, forcing them to risk everything to save their city and find a new future above ground. ©2003 **Grade Level 6-8. The Sunshine State Young Reader's Award (Winner, Grades 6-8) and the Massachusetts Children's Book Award (Honor Book)**

***Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton** - It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. ©2015 **Grade Level 5-8**

***Genevieve's War* by Patricia Reilly Giff** - Thirteen-year-old American girl Genevieve has spent the summer of 1939 at her grandmother's farm in Alsace, France. Then she makes an impulsive choice: to stay in France. It proves to be a dangerous decision as World War II erupts. ©2017 **Grade Level 6-7**

***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb** - Malala Yousafzai's memoir about her courageous campaign for girls' education in Pakistan. It tells the story of her life in the Swat Valley, the Taliban's takeover, her near-fatal shooting, and her journey to become a global advocate for education right. ©2017 **Grade Level 5-8. 2015 Grammy Award for Best Children's Album**

***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. ©2019 **Grade Level 7-8. American Indian Youth Literature Award for Best Middle School**

***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall** - Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy—though you wouldn't guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage—in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history. ©2015 **Grade Level 6-8**

***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz** - On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children. Their adventures take them on a chase through France: they are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. ©2016 **Grade Level 6-10. 2017 Newbery Honor Book**

***Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai** - follows 10-year-old Hà as she and her family flee Vietnam after the fall of Saigon, arriving in Alabama with dreams and a new life. Told in free-verse poems, the book captures Hà's experiences of learning a new language, adapting to a different culture, and facing the challenges of immigration. ©2011 Grade Level 3-7. 2011 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, 2012 Newbery Honor

***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt** - It only takes a few hours for Turner Buckminster to start hating Phippsburg, Maine. No one in town will let him forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. ©2013 Grade Level 6-9. 2014 Newbery Honor Book

***Loyalty* by Avil** - When his father is killed by rebel vigilantes, Noah flees with his family to Boston. Intent on avenging his father, Noah becomes a spy for the British and firsthand witness to the power of partisan rumor to distort facts, the hypocrisy of men who demand freedom while enslaving others, and the human connections that bind people together regardless of stated allegiances. ©2022 Grade Level 6-7

***The Notorious Benedict Arnold* by Steve Sheinkin** - Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. This accessible biography introduces young readers to the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. ©2010 Grade Level 6-9, 2014 Newbery Honor Book Beacon of Freedom Award, YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction, Margaret A. Edwards Award

***My Path to Heaven: A Young Person's Guide to the Faith* by Geoffrey Bliss, S.J.** - a retreat-in-a-book designed to guide Catholic children aged 9-12 through the truths of the Faith and inspire them to live holy lives. ©2005 Grade Level 5-12

***One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia** Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. ©2011 Grade Level 5-7. 2012 Newbery Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award, Coretta Scott King Award

***Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson* by Katherine Johnson** - As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. In school she quickly skipped ahead several grades and was soon studying complex equations with the support of a professor who saw great promise in her. ©2020 Grade Level 6

***The Red Bandanna* by Tom Rinaldi** - Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Readers will be fascinated by the story of an ordinary man who did extraordinary work to save lives of others while sacrificing his own. ©2017 **Grade Level 6–8, Winner of the Christopher Award, Notable Social Studies Book**

***Riding Chance* by Christine Kendall** - Troy is a kid with a passion. And dreams. And wanting to do the right thing. But after taking a wrong turn, he's forced to endure something that's worse than any juvenile detention he can imagine—he's "sentenced" to the local city stables where he's made to take care of horses. ©2016 **Grade Level 6–8**

***The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett** - the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely orphan, who is sent to live with her uncle in a gloomy English manor after the deaths of her parents. ©1911 **Grade Level 5–8**

***So Be It* by Sarah Weeks** - She doesn't know when her birthday is or who her father is. In fact, everything about Heidi and her mentally disabled mother's past is a mystery. When a strange word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her, Heidi sets out on a cross-country journey in search of the secrets of her past. ©2004 **Grade Level 6–8**

***Soar* by Joan Bauer** Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan. He *really* loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach. ©2017 **Grade Level 6–7 Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominee, Vermont Golden Dome Book Award Nominee, William Allen White Children's Book Award Nominee, and Bluestem Book Award Nominee**

***Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper** - Stella lives in the segregated South; in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right, pleasant. Others are a lot less so. **S2015 Grade Level 6-8. PA Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee, Vermont Golden Dome Book Award Nominee, Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's Literature Nominee, NAACP Image Award Nominee, NCTE Charlotte Huck Award, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee**

***The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria von Trapp** - Baroness Maria Augusta Trapp tells in her own beautiful, simple words the extraordinary story of her romance with the baron, their escape from Nazi-occupied Austria, and their life in America. ©1949 **Grade Level 7-12**

***Strongheart Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen* by Candace Fleming** - Based on a true story, this absorbing novel from the duo behind *Giant Squid* and other books introduces Strongheart, a German shepherd that worked as a police dog in Germany

until his discovery by Hollywood director Larry Trimble in the early 1920s. ©2018
Grade Level 6-7

***Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story* by Mary Downing Hahn** - a ghost story about Molly and her brother Michael, who are wary of their new, troubled step sister Heather. Heather claims to be talking to the ghost of a child named Helen, who warns Molly and Michael of danger. ©1986 **Grade Level 4-7. 1989 Young Reader's Choice Award**

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt** - a poignant coming-of-age story involving the funny misadventures of Long Island, New York, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood and his unlikely discovery of Shakespeare in the turbulent academic year of 1967-1968. ©2007 **Grade Level 5-9. 2008 Newbery Honor**

***The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin** - mystery where sixteen unlikely people are drawn together by the strange will of eccentric millionaire Samuel W. Westing. They must play a game to determine who among them murdered Westing and to claim his vast fortune, a game filled with clues, intrigue, and unexpected twists. ©1978 **Grade Level 5-8. 1979 Newbery Medal, finalist for the National Book Award for Children's Literature in 1981**

***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk** Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. ©2016 **Grade Level 6-8. 2017 Newbery Honor Book**