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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS A C A D E M Y

Suggested Reading List Summer 2024 Grades 5 - 8

In order to help students prepare for the upcoming year, the team of middle school teachers have compiled a starter list of summer reading ideas that we hope you'll explore and enjoy as much as we do. The list includes books you are required to read this summer, plus some suggestions from teachers, students, and a few parents who wanted to share some ideas about their favorite books and authors with you.

The Summer Reading List also includes a few resources that can also spur some reading options and ideas. This is an evolving list, so if you have a favorite book you love and think might be appropriate for middle school readers, let us know. Suggestions provided below are not sorted by grade level. Some of the books might be better for upper middle school, while others are comparatively appropriate for younger middle school readers.

Required Reading Grade 5

- *Unplugged*, by Gordon Korman
- Your Choice - (read any grade level fiction or non-fiction book you'd like)

Required Reading Grade 6

- *Restart*, Gordon Korman
- Your Choice - (read any grade level fiction or non-fiction book you'd like)

Required Reading Grade 7

- *The Red Kayok*, by Priscilla Cummings
- *The Seventh Most Important Thing*, by Shelley Pearsall

Required Reading Grade 8

- *The Trouble with Lemons*, by Daniel Hayes
- *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch
- Your Choice - (read any grade level fiction or non-fiction book you'd like)

Other Reading Ideas and Selections

Parent Favorites

- *Bob*, Wendy Mass / Rebecca Stead
- *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*, Stacy McAnulty
- *The Penderwicks* (Series), Jeanne Birdsall
- *The Willoughbys*, Lois Lowry
- *Ruby Holler*, Sharon Creech (upper middle)
- *The Dangerous Book for Boys*, Conn Iggulden and Hal Iggulden
- *Journey to Nowhere*, Mary Jane Auch
- *A Wolf Called Wander*, Rosanne Parry
- *Whale of the Wild*, Rosanne Parry
- *Dovey Coe*, Francis O’Roark Dowell

Teacher Favorites

- *Blood on the River*, Elisa Carbone
- *Esperanza Rising*, Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Down River or City of Gold*, Will Hobbs
- *War Horse*, Michael Morpurgo
- *The Lemonade Wars*, Jacqueline Davies
- Books by Jerry Spinelli
 - *Milkweed*
 - *Loser*
 - *Smiles to Go*
 - *Crash*
 - *Stargirl*
- *Counting By 7s*, Sloan Holly Goldberg
- *Fish in a Tree*, Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Alone*, Megan Freeman (check it out if you liked the *Hatchet* or the *I Survived* series)
- *Because of Mr. Terupt*, Rob Buyea
- *Wonder*, R. J. Palacio
- *Holes*, Louis Sachar
- *Bystander*, James Preller
- *Short Stories*, Ray Bradbury
- *Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage*, Alfred Lansing
- *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*, Dan Gemeinhart
- Carl Hiaasen books
 - *Flush*
 - *Scat*
 - *Squirm*
 - *Chomp*

- *Hoot*
- *Walk Two Moons* (a 2 book series), Sharon Creech
- *Keeper of Lost Cities* series, Shannon Messenger

Student Favorites

- *The Amulet series* (books 1-8), Kazu Kibuishi (graphic novels for upper elementary level students)
- Gary Paulsen books
 - *Hatchet*, (book 1 of the Hatchet series)
 - *Tucket's Ride* (book 1 of the Tucket series)
 - *Woodsong*
 - *Woods Runner*
- *The Ranger's Apprentice series*, John Flanagan
- *Smartest Kid in the Universe*, Chris Grabenstein
- *The Wayside School* series, Louis Sachar
- *Refugee*, Alan Gratz (also see *Prisoner B-3087* and *Code of Honor*)
- *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, C. Collodi
- *Way of the Warrior Kid*, Jocko Willink
- *The Education of Little Tree*, Forrest Carter
- *Key to the Treasure*, Peggy Parish
- *Mystery of the Silver Spider*, Robert Arthur
- *The Hunger Games* (book 1 of series), Suzanne Collins, (upper middle school)
- *Heat or Last Man Out*, Mike Lupica (Lupica has several sports related books. Check them out.)
- *A Dog's Purpose: A Novel for Humans*, W. Bruce Cameron
- *Wings of Fire* series, Tui T. Sutherland
- *The Way of Kings* (Book 1 of the *Stormlight Archive* series), Brandon Sanderson
- *Treasure Hunters* series (books 1-9), James Patterson
- *Who Was? / Who Were?* series of biographies by various authors; upper elementary kids love these
- *War Horse*, Michael Morpurgo
- *The One and Only Ivan*, Katherine Applegate
- *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenweiler*, E.L. Konigsburg
- *The Unwanteds Quests*, Lisa McMann

Classics

- *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls
- *Canoeing with the Cree*, Eric Sevareid
- *Chronicles of Narnia* (Series), C.S. Lewis
- *My Side of the Mountain* (Series), Jean Craighead George
- *Bridge to Terabithia*, Katherine Patterson

- *Julie of the Wolves*, Jean Craighead George
- *The Sign of the Beaver*, Elizabeth George Speare
- *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Elizabeth George Speare
- *The Borrowers*, (Series) Mary Norton
- *Hardy Boys* (Series), Franklin W. Dixon
- *Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster
- *The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin
- *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Roald Dahl
- *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*, Roald Dahl
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, (Classic Starts Series-abridged), Retold from Mark Twain original by Oliver Ho
- *Tom Sawyer*, Mark Twain
- *The Wanderer*, Sharon Creech
- *Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Giver* (books 1-4), Lois Lowry (upper middle)
- *The Yearling*, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (upper middle)
- *Charlotte's Web* or *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White
- *Cricket in Times Square*, George Seldon
- *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, Florence Atwater
- *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson (several editions to choose from)

Favorite Science Fiction

- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Douglas Adams
- *Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card
- *City of Ember* (Series), Jeanne DuPrau
- *The Story of Doctor Dolittle*, Hugh Lofting
- *The Maze Runner* (series), James Dashner

History / Historical Fiction / Non-fiction

- *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*, Alfred Lansing
- *Unbroken* (young reader's edition), Laura Hillenbrand
- *Great Battles for Boys: Bunker Hill to WWI*, Joe Giorello
- *I Survived Series*, Lauren Tarshis
- *Bound* (ancient China, Donna Jo Napoli)
- *Chinese Cinderella* (ancient China), Adeline Yen Mah
- *Pony*, R.J. Palacio
- *Toliver's Secret*, Esther Wood Brady
- *No Better Friend: A Man, A Dog, and their incredible Journey of Friendship and Survival in WWII*, Robert Weintraub (upper middle)
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* (Tales from Alcatraz), Gennifer Choldenko
- *Code Talker*, Joseph Bruchac

- *Short Stories*, Ray Bradbury (upper middle)
- *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World*, Jennifer Armstrong (for middle school)

Adventure / Fantasy /Mystery

- Harry Potter, J.K. Rowling
- *Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Tuck Everlasting*, Natalie Babbitt
- *Sammy Keyes* (Series), Wendelin Draanen
- *Theodore Boone* (Series), John Grisham
- *Ranger's Apprentice* (Series), John Flanagan
- *Spy Camp series*, Stuart Gibbs
- *The Vanderbeekers* (Series), Karina Van Glaser
- *The View From Saturday*, E.L. Konigsburg
- *From the Mixed- up Files of Mrs.Basil E.Frankweiler*, E.L. Konigsburg
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, Trenton Lee Stuart
- *The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin
- *The Lightning Thief*, Richard Riordan (Book 1 of 5 of Percy Jackson series)
- *The Red Pyramid*, Richard Riordan (Book 1 of 3 the Kane Chronicle series)
- *The Lost Hero*, Richard Riordan, (Book 1 of 5 of the Heroes of Olympus series)
- *The Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard Series* (books 1-3)
- *When You Reach Me*, Rebecca Stead
- *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, Douglas Adams
- *Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card
- *Chronicles of Narnia* (Series); C.S. Lewis
- *Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien;

Realistic Fiction

- *Harriet the Spy*, Meg Cabot
- *Ruby Holler*, Sharon Creech
- *Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech
- *Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Watsons go to Birmingham*, Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Riding Freedom*, Pam Munoz Ryan
- *Because of Winn Dixie*, Kate DiCamillo
- *Bystander*, James Preller
- *My Side of the Mountain* (Series), Jean Craighead George

Poetry

- *Love that Dog*, Sharon Creech
- *Hate that Cat*, Sharon Creech

Other Suggestions, Lists, and Resources

John Newbery Award Winning Books

<https://www.ala.org/alsc/sites/ala.org.alsc/files/content/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newbery-medals-honors-1922-present.pdf>

Scholastic Books: Loads of links, links, and resources

<https://shop.scholastic.com/parent-ecommerce/parent-store.html>

Goodreads: Lots of lists and options for young adults

https://www.goodreads.com/?ref=nav_home

Gutenberg Project: free classic e-books for upper middle and high school

<https://www.gutenberg.org/>