

Summer Reading 2026

Incoming 7th Grade

Parents,

During the summer months, we ask students to choose a book to read, hoping they can find one that is a true page-turner. Our goal has always been to keep students reading through the summer months, but getting students to put down the phone and pick up a book is even more challenging. In expanding our recommended list, we hope to ensure there is something for everyone, and that the summer read is a positive experience and a fun adventure. Our English Department invested time developing reading lists per grade level, to include a few classics, nonfiction, realistic and historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and dystopia.

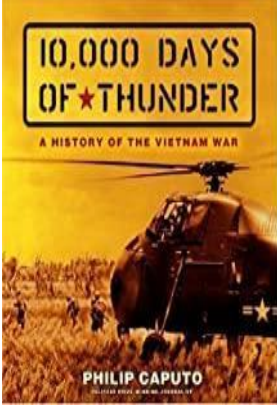
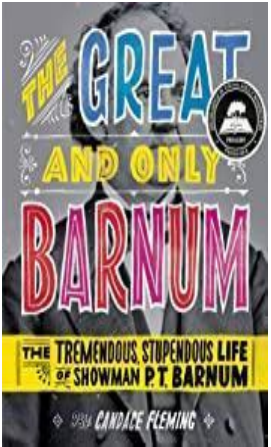
Take time with your student(s) to peruse the list, making sure their book choice meets with your parental approval. A synopsis is included with each title to assist with selection. If you are not sure where to look for more information regarding the content of the text for your child, you can consult [Common Sense Media \(www.commonsensemedia.org\)](http://www.commonsensemedia.org) or look at the publisher's recommendations. There is no written assignment; instead, students will be asked to respond to a written prompt referencing their title once they arrive at York Catholic in August.

We wish your family a safe and fun-filled summer, and invite all of you to pick up one of the titles listed to enjoy on the beach, by the pool, on a long car ride, or in a shady chair in the backyard. Happy reading, everyone!


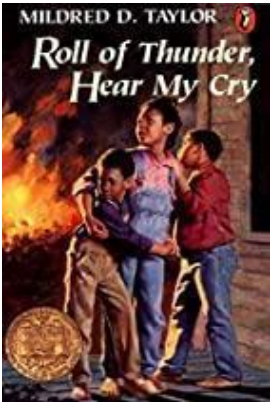
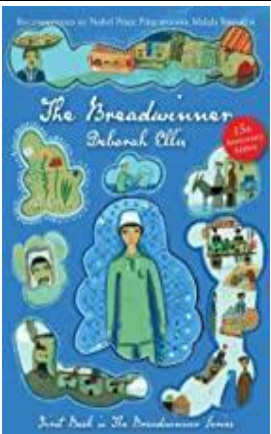
Mrs. Kathy Hand

Principal

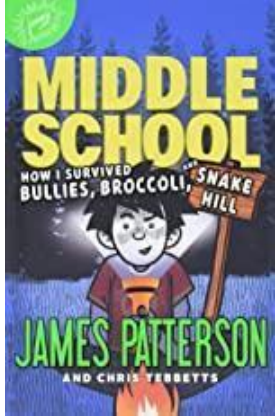
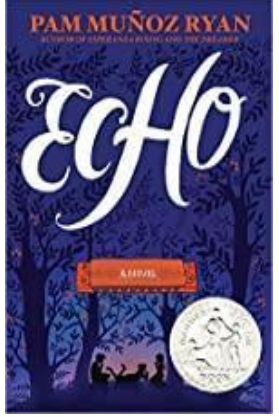

Choose one of the following books to read during the summer. When you arrive to school in August, your chosen book will be the topic of your first writing.

Genre	Title/Author	Summary
<p>Nonfiction</p> <p><i>10,000 Days of Thunder</i></p> <p>Philip Caputo</p>		<p>It was the war that lasted ten thousand days. The war that inspired scores of songs. The war that sparked dozens of riots. In this stirring chronicle, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Philip Caputo writes about our country's most controversial war—the Vietnam War—for young readers. From the first stirrings of unrest in Vietnam under French colonial rule, to American intervention, to the battle at Hamburger Hill, to the Tet Offensive, to the fall of Saigon, <i>10,000 Days of Thunder</i> explores the war that changed the lives of a generation of Americans and that still reverberates with us today.</p>
<p>Nonfiction</p> <p><i>The Great and Only Barnum</i></p> <p>Candace Fleming</p>		<p>Known far and wide for his jumbo elephants, little people, and three-ring circuses, here's a complete and captivating look at the man behind the Greatest Show on Earth. Readers can visit Barnum's American Museum; meet Tom Thumb, the miniature man (only 39 inches tall) and his tinier bride (32 inches); experience the thrill Barnum must have felt when, at age 60, he joined the circus; and discover Barnum's legacy to the 19th century and beyond. Drawing on old circus posters, photographs, etchings, ticket stubs—and with incredible decorative art by Ray Fenwick—this book presents history as it's never been experienced before—a show-stopping event!</p>

<p>Nonfiction</p> <p><i>Undeclared:</i> <i>Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School</i></p> <p>Steve Sheinkin</p>		<p><i>Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team</i> is an astonishing underdog sports story. It's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat. Before these men became legends, they met in 1907 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools such as Harvard and Army in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work.</p>
<p>Nonfiction/Memoir</p> <p><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i></p> <p>Jacqueline Woodson</p>		<p>Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.</p>
<p>Classics</p> <p><i>Little Women</i></p> <p>Louisa Mae Alcott</p>	 <p>(Any unabridged edition is acceptable.)</p>	<p><i>Little Women</i> is a coming-of-age novel written by American novelist Louisa May Alcott. The story follows the lives of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—and details their passage from childhood to womanhood. It is loosely based on the lives of the author and her three sisters. The book explores such timeless themes as love and death, war and peace, the conflict between personal ambition and family responsibilities, and the clash of cultures between Europe and America.</p>

<p>Classics</p> <p>Anne of Green Gables</p> <p>LM Montgomery</p>	 <p>(Ensure it is the original and not the youth or graphic novel)</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley has never known a real home. Since her parents' deaths, she's bounced around to foster homes and orphanages. When she is sent by mistake to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert at Green Gables, she wants to stay forever, but Anne is not the sturdy boy Matthew and Marilla were expecting. She's a mischievous, talkative redheaded girl with a fierce temper, who tumbles into one scrape after another. Anne is not like anybody else; she is special, a girl with an enormous imagination. All she's ever wanted is to belong somewhere, and the longer she stays at Green Gables, the harder it is for anyone to imagine life without her.</p>
<p>Classics</p> <p>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</p> <p>Mildred Taylor</p>		<p>Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.</p>
<p>Realistic/ Historic Fiction</p> <p>The Breadwinner</p> <p>Deborah Ellis</p>		<p>This is an award-winning novel about loyalty, survival, families and friendship under extraordinary circumstances during the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan in the late 1990s. Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. Parvana's father, a history teacher until his school was bombed and his health destroyed, works from a blanket on the ground in the marketplace, reading letters for people who cannot read or write. One day, he is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education, and the family is left without someone who can earn money or even shop for food. As conditions for the family grow desperate, only one solution emerges. Forbidden to earn money</p>

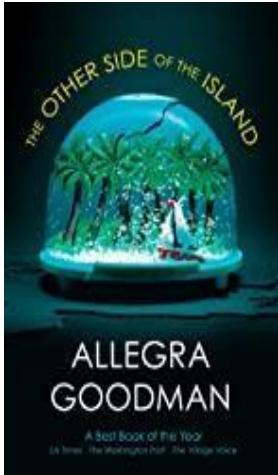
		<p>as a girl, Parvana must disguise herself as a boy, and become the breadwinner.</p>
<p>Realistic/ Historic Fiction</p> <p><i>Mockingbird</i></p> <p>Kathryn Erskine</p>		<p>Caitlin has Asperger's Syndrome, currently contained in the Autism Spectrum. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help, but Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word “closure”—and she realizes this is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.</p>
<p>Realistic/ Historic Fiction</p> <p><i>Football Genius</i></p> <p>Tim Green</p>		<p>Twelve-year-old Troy White has a phenomenal gift: He can predict football plays before they even happen. Any position. Any player. Any team. When Troy's single mom gets a job working for the Atlanta Falcons, Troy sees this as an opportunity to show what he can do, but first he has to get to the Falcons—and with tight security and a notoriously mean coach, even his mom's field passes aren't much help. Then Troy and his best friends devise a plan to get the attention of star linebacker Seth Halloway. With Seth's playing and Troy's genius, the Falcons could be unstoppable if they'll only listen, but if he can't convince Seth he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship and his mom's job are at risk.</p>
<p>Realistic/ Historic Fiction</p> <p><i>Refugee</i></p> <p>Alan Gratz</p>		<p>Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals, but there is always the</p>

		<p>hope of tomorrow. Although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, their stories tie together in the end.</p>
<p>Realistic/ Historic Fiction</p> <p><i>Middle School: How I Survived Bullies, Broccoli, and Snakes</i></p> <p>James Patterson</p>		<p>Rafe Khatchadorian, the hero of the bestselling <i>Middle School</i> series, is ready for a fun summer at camp—until he finds out it's a summer school camp! Luckily, Rafe easily makes friends with his troublemaking cabin mates and bunkmate, a boy nicknamed Booger-Eater, who puts up with endless teasing from the other kids. Rafe soon realizes there's more to a person than a nickname, and Booger-Eater might be the kind of friend you want on your side when the boys from the Cool Cabin attack.</p>
<p>Realistic/ Historic Fiction</p> <p><i>Echo</i></p> <p>Pam Munoz Ryan</p>		<p>Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives, binding them by an invisible thread of destiny. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together.</p>
<p>Science Fiction/ Fantasy/ Dystopia</p> <p><i>Among the Hidden</i></p> <p>Margaret Peterson Haddix</p>		<p>Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside. Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows—does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?</p>

Science Fiction/
Fantasy/
Dystopia

The Other Side of the Island

Allegra Goodman



In the eighteenth glorious year of Enclosure, long after The Flood, a young girl named Honor moves with her parents to Island 365 in the Tranquil Sea. Life on the tropical island is peaceful—there is no sadness and no visible violence in this world. Earth Mother and her Corporation have created New Weather. The sky is always blue and it almost never rains. Every family fits into its rightful, orderly, and predictable place except Honor's. Her family does not follow the rules. They ignore curfew, sing songs, and do not pray to Earth Mother. Honor doesn't fit in with the other children at the Old Colony School. Then she meets Helix, a boy with a big heart who slowly helps her uncover a terrible secret about the Island: Sooner or later, those who do not fit disappear, and they don't ever come back.

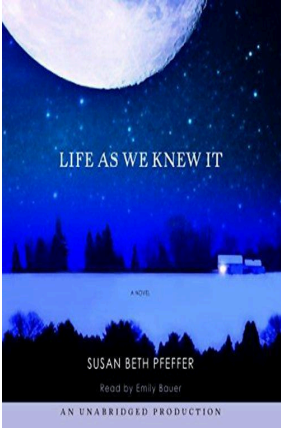

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Six Crimson Cranes

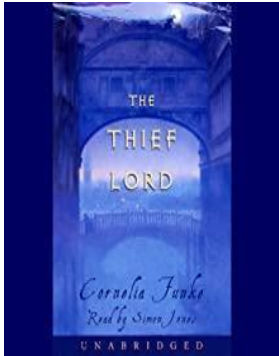
Elizabeth Lim



Shiori'anma, the only princess of Kiata, has a secret. Forbidden magic runs through her veins. Normally she conceals it well, but on the morning of her betrothal ceremony, Shiori loses control. At first, her mistake seems like a stroke of luck, forestalling the wedding she never wanted, but it also catches the attention of Raikama, her stepmother. A sorceress in her own right, Raikama banishes the young princess, turning her brothers into cranes. She warns Shiori that she must speak of it to no one: for with every word that escapes her lips, one of her brothers will die. Penniless, voiceless, and alone, Shiori searches for her brothers, and uncovers a dark conspiracy to seize the throne. Only Shiori can set the kingdom to rights, but to do so she must place her trust in a paper bird, a mercurial dragon, and the very boy she fought so hard not to marry. She must embrace the magic she's been taught all her life to forswear—no matter what the cost.

<p>Science Fiction/ Fantasy/ Dystopia</p> <p><i>Life As We Know It</i></p> <p>Susan Pfeffer</p>		<p>Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the Moon closer to the Earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun? As summer turns to Arctic winter, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.</p>
<p>Science Fiction/ Fantasy/ Dystopia</p> <p><i>The Lost Hero</i></p> <p>Rick Riordan</p>		<p>Jason has a problem. He doesn't remember anything before waking up on a school bus holding hands with a girl. Apparently, she's his girlfriend Piper, his best friend is a kid named Leo, and they're all students in the Wilderness School, a boarding school for "bad kids." What he did to end up here, Jason has no idea—except that everything seems very wrong. Piper has a secret. Her father has been missing for three days, and her vivid nightmares reveal that he's in terrible danger. Now her boyfriend doesn't recognize her, and when a freak storm and strange creatures attack during a school field trip, she, Jason, and Leo are whisked away to someplace called Camp Half-Blood. What is going on?</p>

Suspense
The Thief Lord
Cornelia Funke



Welcome to the magical underworld of Venice, Italy, where hidden canals and crumbling rooftops shelter runaways and children with incredible secrets. Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord." Brilliant and charismatic, the Thief Lord leads a ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo delight in being part of this colorful new family, but the Thief Lord has secrets of his own. And soon the boys are thrust into circumstances that will lead them to a fantastic, spellbinding conclusion.

Suspense
Stormbreaker
Anthony Horowitz



They said his uncle Ian died in a car accident. Alex Rider knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in his uncle's car confirm the truth, but nothing can prepare him for the news that the uncle he always thought he knew was really a spy for Britain's top-secret intelligence agency. Enlisted to find his uncle's killers and complete Ian's final mission, Alex suddenly finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse, with no way out.