



Summer 2011 Reading List

For students entering Grade 4

"Kids who don't have educationally rich summers will be nearly three years behind their peers by the time they reach the end of the fifth grade..."

Much like we would expect an athlete or a musician's performance to suffer if they didn't practice regularly, the same thing is true for young people when it comes to reading performance."

— Ron Fairchild, Founding CEO, Nat'l Summer Learning Association

- The school bell may stop ringing, but summer is a great time for all kinds of learning opportunities for kids.
- The research is clear that children who don't read during the summer can lose their reading progress and that loss has a cumulative, long-term effect.

We would like for students to read at least 2 chapter books over the summer. This will better prepare our incoming fourth graders for Language Arts in 4th grade.

Some suggestions:

- Any ***Wayside School*** novel by Louis Sachar
- ***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing***, by Judy Blume
- ***James and the Giant Peach***, ***The Twits***, and/or any novel by Roald Dahl
- ***The 39 Clues***, by various authors

We also would like students to read and be able to "describe the differences of various imaginative forms of literature, including fantasies, fables, myths, legends and fairy tales." (Language Arts Standard 4.3.1)

Some examples could include:

- Aesop's fables
- ***The Grasshopper and the Ant***, by Graham Percy
- ***Johnny Appleseed***, various authors
- ***Paul Bunyan and Babe, the Blue Ox***, by Roger Brooke



Recommended Reading for Catholic School Students



~Grade 3 to Grade 4~

~Faith~

The Last Dog on Earth-Daniel Ehrenhaft. Delacorte Press, 2003. A young boy who doesn't get along with anyone, tries to save his only friend.

Loyola Kids' Book of Saints-Amy Welborn. Loyola Press, 2001. The lives of several saints are presented, along with real-life applications for today's children.

Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Three People, Four Days, Many Miracles. J. Janda: Paulist Press, 1988.

Oh Baby! Katie Kazoo Switcheroo-Nancy Krulik. Grosset and Dunlap, 2002. Katie wishes she could be anybody but herself and keeps turning into other people when she least expects it.

~Hope~

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes-Eleanor Coerr. Puffin, 1999. Sadako develops leukemia and sets out to follow a Japanese legend to make her better.

Flight: The Journey of Charles Lindbergh-Robert Burleigh. Trumpet Club, 1991.

Earth From Above for Young Readers-Yann Arthus-Bertrand. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2002. Thirty-four stunning aerial views were photographed by the author while leaning out of a helicopter.

Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts-Jean Craighead George. HarperCollins, 1984. These are the stories of ten animals and the challenges they overcame.

~Love~

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch-Eileen Spinelli. Bradbury, 1992. A special gift, sent to a lonely man, gives him a sense of well-being.

Silent to the Bone-E.L.Konigsburg. Simon and Schuster, 2002. Connor must find a way to communicate and prove the innocence of his friend, who was struck mute after witnessing his little sister's accident.

Train To Somewhere-Eve Bunting Ronald Himler. HoughtonMifflin, 2000. Homeless children travel on a train in search of families to adopt them.

Chicken Sunday-Patricia Polacco: Philomel, 1993. The author shares a story of acceptance, trust and love that occurred in her old neighborhood.

~Service~

Summer Wheels-Eve Bunting: Harcourt Brace, 1992. The bicycle man fixes bicycles and lends them to people for free. A young boy thinks he should keep the bike but changes his mind.

Shoeshine Girl-Clyde Robert Bulla: Harper Trophy, 1994. Sarah befriends the shoeshine man and becomes less self-centered and more reliant.

How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning. Rosalyn Schanzer: HarperCollins, 2002. Ben Franklin uses his discovery to make life safer.

Girls Think of Everything-Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women. Catherine Thimmesh: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.