

Saint Jerome School
Summer Reading 2020



Dear St. Jerome 5th Grade Student and family,

This quote begins our Summer Reading Program.

While reading may not be the first activity that our children think of for this summer, it is an excellent opportunity to exercise the mind and spirit. It can be an ideal way to relax, explore new ideas and keep your mind ready for September. Reading is an ideal activity to involve family and friends. It can help you unwind, visualize a different world and foster a greater appreciation for reading.

This year, the Summer Reading List has choices but not a “specific” writing assignment. The only written assignment is to keep simple written chapter notes on paper or index cards. These notes will summarize each chapter’s character(s), action(s) and or setting, etc.

On the first day of class, each student will complete a form listing the 3 books they read. During the week, we will discuss and share our “stories” of the various books that were read. The following week, each student will answer 4 or 5 questions, about the books they read, using their notes. All students entering the 5th grade are required to read 3 books from the list below.

Choose 1 book from this list:

- **One Crazy Summer** (Rita Williams-Garcia)
- **The One and Only Ivan** (Katherine Applegate)

If the books above are not available for you to borrow or purchase, you may replace it with one from the list of classic books listed below.

- **A Wrinkle in Time** (Madeleine L’Engle)
- **Black Beauty** (Anna Sewell)
- **Little Women** (Louisa May Alcott)

Choose 2 additional books from the list above or below:

- **Charlotte’s Web** (E.B. White)
- **Esperanza Rising** (Pam Muñoz Ryan)
- **Frindle** (Andrew Clements)
- **Holes** (Louis Sachar)
- **In The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson** (Bette Bao Lord)

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- **Maniac Magee** (Jerry Spinelli)
- **Mother Teresa: DK Biography** (Maya Gold)
- **Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of Nimh** (Robert O'Brien)
- **Boy: Tales of Childhood** (Roald Dahl)
- **The Homework Machine** (Dan Gutman)
- **The Tale of Despereaux** (Kate DiCamillo)

Giving a variety of books to choose from will help make the reading experience more enjoyable. Summaries of books can be found online on many websites. The one I use is www.goodreads.com. Many of these books are available at branches of the Monmouth County Library. Placing online holds is now available and some libraries are currently offering door-side pickup at their locations. Others are available as ebooks or online. While we do not recommend any one site, some examples of free classic online books are available at:

- Library of Congress / mainly classics: <http://read.gov/books/>
- Open Library / short term borrows but many classics: <http://openlibrary.org/>
- Project Gutenberg / mainly classics: http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Reading Sanctuary / A Wrinkle in Time: <https://www.readingsanctuary.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/A-Wrinkle-in-Time.pdf>

There are research studies that indicate that students who participate in summer reading programs demonstrate higher achievements, increased reading skills, motivation, confidence and enjoyment. We hope you enjoy the choice of books and will value summer reading time with less written work and more reading enjoyment!

Best Always,
Ms. Kerns

