PRESCHOOL - GRADE 5

SHA SUMMER Reading PROGRAM

Theme: Friendship

Preschool - Kindergarten

- Select 2-3 books from the list to read with your student before the start of school.

Grades 1-5

- Select 1-2 books from the list to read before the start of school.

Students will have a project to do with their summer reading book(s) within the first few weeks of school.

Preschool to Kindergarten (Read Alouds & Early Literacy)

- **Frog and Toad Series by Arnold Lobel**
  - Friendship Focus: Strong, loyal friendship despite differences.
  - Catholic Values: Patience, support, forgiveness.

- **Corduroy by Don Freeman**
  - Friendship Focus: A teddy bear's longing for love and belonging is fulfilled by a kind little girl.
  - Catholic Values: Compassion, acceptance, dignity of every person.

- **Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey**
  - Friendship Focus: Parallel stories of a child and a bear cub with their mothers—gentle, comforting tone.
  - Catholic Values: Family, care, providence.

- **Stone Soup by Marcia Brown**
  - Friendship Focus: Building community through sharing and cooperation.
  - Catholic Values: Generosity, hospitality, unity.

- **The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats**
  - Friendship Focus: Subtle but sweet connections with others through childlike wonder and exploration.
  - Catholic Values: Innocence, joy in creation, diversity.

- **The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf**
  - Friendship Focus: Ferdinand's gentle nature contrasts with expectations, highlighting kindness and peace.
  - Catholic Values: Peacefulness, respect for life, being true to one's God-given identity.

- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle**
  - Friendship Focus: Though not overtly about friendship, the message of growth and transformation can be paired with lessons about helping others grow.
  - Catholic Values: Wonder of creation, purpose, change.

- **Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson**
  - Friendship Focus: Imaginative adventure that encourages empathy, as children often create shared stories.
  - Catholic Values: Creativity, trust, problem-solving with hope.

- **Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone**
  - Friendship Focus: Peppe learns the value of serving others and gains respect through his kindness and humility.
  - Catholic Values: Work as vocation, family love, humility.

- **Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey**
  - Friendship Focus: A story of trust and cooperation between people and animals.
  - Catholic Values: Protection of life, kindness to animals, cooperation.

Grades 1-2 (Emerging Readers & Early Chapter Books)

- **Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel**
  - Friendship Theme: Simple stories of everyday friendship between two very different personalities.
  - Catholic Values: Patience, understanding, accepting differences, loyalty.

- **Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik**
  - Friendship Theme: Gentle tales of Little Bear's adventures, often involving his loving family and animal friends.
  - Catholic Values: Love of family, gratitude, imagination as a gift.

- **The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister**
  - Friendship Theme: A beautiful fish learns that sharing makes him truly happy and brings friendship.
  - Catholic Values: Generosity, humility, community.

- **The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney**
  - Friendship Theme: A retelling of the classic fable about kindness and unexpected friendship.
  - Catholic Values: Mercy, compassion, the dignity of all.

- **Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant**
  - Friendship Theme: Follows a boy and his dog as they navigate everyday life, learning lessons in love and trust.
  - Catholic Values: Responsibility, companionship, joy in the ordinary.
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- **Amelia Bedelia series by Peggy Parish**
  - Friendship Theme: Though focused on humor, Amelia's interactions show kindness, forgiveness, and lighthearted friendship.
  - Catholic Values: Forgiveness, joy, good humor as a gift.
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- ***Poppleton series by Cynthia Rylant***
  - Friendship Theme: Poppleton the pig moves to a new town and forms heartwarming friendships with neighbors like Cherry Sue the llama and Fillmore the goat.
  - Catholic Values: Hospitality, kindness, acceptance, simple joys of community and friendship.

- **Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee**
  - Friendship Theme: These quirky best friends learn to navigate differences and celebrate what makes them unique.
  - Catholic Values: Acceptance, friendship through contrast, unity in diversity.

Grades 3-4 Independent Chapter Book Readers

- **The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes**
  - Friendship Theme: Addresses bullying, empathy, and the consequences of inaction among school friends.
  - Catholic Values: Compassion, justice, repentance, forgiveness.

- **Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo**
  - Friendship Theme: A heartwarming story about a girl who, through her dog, makes new friends and finds healing.
  - Catholic Values: Kindness, healing from loss, community.

- **Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne**
  - Friendship Theme: central to the book. Each character demonstrates different aspects of friendship—kindness (Pooh), loyalty (Piglet), patience (Christopher Robin), and acceptance (Eeyore).
  - Catholic Values: Compassion, community, self-giving love.

- **The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner**
  - Friendship Theme: Though the children are siblings, their bond models a deep friendship rooted in cooperation, sacrifice, and trust. They also form friendships with other characters as the series develops.
  - Catholic Values: Family unity, service, trust, generosity.

- **The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White**
  - Friendship Theme: Louis, the mute swan, forms a deep friendship with a boy who helps him overcome obstacles. The story centers on loyalty and mutual support.
  - Catholic Values: Dignity of each person, perseverance, using gifts to serve others.

Grades 5 Upper Elementary to Middle Grade Readers

- **Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery**
  - Friendship Theme: Anne's deep friendship with Diana Barry is filled with loyalty, trust, and growing maturity. It also shows how friendship evolves with forgiveness and understanding.
  - Catholic Values: Joy in life, imagination as a gift, forgiveness, faithfulness in relationships.

- **Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson**
  - Friendship Theme: Jesse and Leslie form a transformative friendship that helps each face fears and embrace creativity and loss.
  - Catholic Values: Compassion, grieving with hope, emotional resilience, imagination as a spiritual gift.

- **Number the Stars by Lois Lowry**
  - Friendship Theme: A powerful story of bravery and self-sacrifice, centering on Annemarie's friendship with Ellen, who is Jewish during WWII.
  - Catholic Values: Moral courage, protecting the dignity of life, solidarity, sacrificial love.

- **The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall**
  - Friendship Theme: A wholesome, humorous novel about the bonds between sisters and new friendships formed over a summer.
  - Catholic Values: Family as a gift, loyalty, kindness, simple joys of life.

- **Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan**
  - Friendship Theme: Esperanza's journey from privilege to poverty reveals new friendships built on empathy and shared struggle.
  - Catholic Values: Dignity of work, justice for the poor, compassion, humility.