

4th Grade Summer Reading

Requirements:

1. Read *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden. Using an 8.5 X 11 plain white piece of paper, create a story organizer that includes the following:
 - The title and author of the book you read
 - The main characters and at least one sentence to describe each of them
 - A description of the setting
 - A paragraph describing the problem
 - A paragraph describing the solution
 - Rate the book on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best)
 - At least two sentences telling why you liked or did not like the book
 - An illustration showing a character or a part in the book
2. Choose a book from the list below to read and write notes on the following:
 - The title and author
 - A description of each character
 - The main story events
 - Your favorite scene

You will use these notes to help you with a book project during your first week of school.

Book Selections

***Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry**

Classic, Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Newbery Award

The beloved horse story is about two children whose hearts are set on a particular pony and her foal at Pony Penning Day.

***A Snicker of Magic* by Natalie Lloyd**

Fantasy

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town that legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend, Jonah the Beedle, she hopes to bring the magic back.

***Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick**

Adventure, Diverse Abilities, Historical Fiction

Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City, and Rose, who lives with her father, but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's story is told in pictures.

***Samantha Spinner and the Super Secret Plans* by Russell Ginns**

Adventure

Samantha's uncle mysteriously disappears, leaving behind extravagant gifts for her siblings and an old, rusty, red umbrella for Samantha that may contain clues to his whereabouts.

5th Grade Summer Reading

Requirements:

1. Read *Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome. Complete a Venn diagram on a 8.5 X 11 sheet of white paper comparing Langston and Clem. You will use the notes you create on the Venn diagram for activities and discussions upon your return to school.

2. Choose a book from the list below and write a book review. Your book review should include a rating of 1-5, support for your rating, and examples from the text to support your review. This writing assignment must be at least two paragraphs typed in Times New Roman and 12-point font. You must include a picture that you created to go along with your book review. You will have an assessment on the books you read during the first week of school.

Selections for the Second Book

A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord

Courage, Realistic Fiction

Twelve-year-old Lily befriends Salma, a Hispanic girl whose family is in Maine for blueberry picking season, but as a local pageant approaches, the girls are confronted with the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Lord

Historical Fiction

In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick

Historical Fiction

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, two Rabbits, and a very interesting Boy by

Jeanne Birdsall

Fiction

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Please note: You may also choose from any book on this upcoming year's Battle of the Books list for your choice book. We anticipate this will be published on the school website by June 15.

6th Grade Summer Reading

Requirements:

1. Read *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell and design a postcard. On the front, create a scene based on the setting and characters found in the book. On the back of the postcard, write a letter to a friend that includes a description of the following:
 - Main characters
 - Summary of the plot
 - Description of the setting
 - Whether or not you would recommend the book to a friend and your reasoning
2. Choose one book from the choice reading list below and create a story element poster on 11 X 17 paper. The poster should be creative and colorful with a combination of illustrations and writing and include the following:
 - Characters
 - Plot
 - Setting
 - Conflict
 - Include any favorite lines or quotes from the book

You will have an assessment on the books you read during the first week of school.

Selections for the Second Book

***Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan* by John Flanagan**

Fantasy

When fifteen year old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

Historical Fiction, Adventure, and Alternating Point of View

Gratz presents three interrelated stories about surviving. The tales center on children and their families who are driven from their homes by war, violence, and unrest.

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen**

Survival Story

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper**

Overcoming Adversity

Considered by many to be mentally challenged, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Please note: You may also choose from any book on this upcoming year's Battle of the Books list for your choice book. We anticipate this will be published on the school website by June 15.

7th Grade Summer Reading

Requirements:

1. Read ***The Black Cauldron*** by Lloyd Alexander. Imagine that you are writing for a newspaper or online publication and write an informative book review that includes the following in Times New Roman, 12-point font:
 - A summary of the story. Include the characters and setting
 - A description of what the author does well
 - Your final evaluation. Give the book a rating out of five stars. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not? How does it compare to other books you have read?
2. Choose one book from the choice reading list below and write a diary from the point of view of one of the characters. Write three diary entries (one paragraph each) from the chosen character's perspective, as if the character were telling the story. A tip for inspiration: Think of three important moments in the book. If you put yourself in the character's shoes, what would you be thinking? What would you be feeling? How would you react? This should be in Times New Roman, 12-point font.
You will have an assessment on the books you read during the first week of school.

Selections for the Second Book

The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win the Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown (full or abridged version)

History, Sports, Perseverance

Nonfiction historical book. This true story catalogs the nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (unabridged version)

Historical Fiction, Semi-autobiographical

A classic coming-of-age novel. The story follows the lives of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—and details their passage from childhood to womanhood.

Karma and the Seven Cups by Timothy Ryan

Realistic Fiction, Local Interest (Takes place in Alexandria, VA)

A 12-year-old boy undertakes an adventure to save his ailing older sister.

Redwall by Brian Jacques

Adventure

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior, which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

8th Grade Summer Reading Requirements

Read three books: one is a saint biography and the other two are from the options below.

For the Saint Biography:

- Read a biography on the saint you are considering for your Confirmation
- The format of the biography should be a chapter book targeted for grades 3-6 or 5-8, not a picture book or graphic novel
- It should be published by an authoritative Catholic source. Ignatius Press (Vision Series) or Pauline Books & Media (Encounter the Saints Series) are suggested publishers for your saint book. Please try to avoid books that are independently published.
- All books must be pre-approved by Mrs. Hays. Please use the Google Form shared in class to submit your choice. If you have questions about your book selection or if you are new to the school and need your book approved, please email Mrs. Hays (lhays@smsva.org).

Saint Biography Deliverables:

1. **Annotations:** As you read your saint biography, annotate your book. Your annotations should focus on connections between you and your saint, virtues or what you admire about his/her life. You will be turning in your annotated book during the first week of school.
2. **Notes:** Take notes on new information and insights from your saint biography.
 - Notes should be handwritten in cursive
 - At least two pages, using college-ruled paper
 - Notes should be organized and include page numbers to help you in writing your saint report this year. See attached example.

For the second book:

Choose one book to read from the choices below. Pretend you are a reporter writing for a newspaper. Write an article about one of the events in the book. Include quotations from what witnesses may have said. This should be in 12 point, Times New Roman, and single-spaced. Be prepared to take an assessment and work on an in-class project during the first week of school.

For the third book:

Choose another book to read from the choices below. Write a short summary (5-7 sentences) in 12 point, Times New Roman, single-spaced. Be prepared to take an assessment and work on a project related to the book you read during the first week of school.

Book Selections

***The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien**

Classic, Fantasy

Frodo, the hobbit, and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.

***Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery**

Classic, Fiction

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

***Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus**

Historical Fiction

In 1841, a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is forced to swim to a small, unknown island, where they are rescued by a passing American ship. Japan's borders remain closed to all Western nations, so the crew sets off to America, learning English on the way.

***I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai**

Memoir

Malala Yousafzai describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

Gothic Fiction

Following the death of her uncle, the orphan Jane Eyre is sent to the Lowood School, where she grows into a confident and well-educated young woman. A series of eerie and terrifying events threaten to destroy her happy future.

***The Mythmakers: The Remarkable Fellowship of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien* by John Hendrix**

Biography

This graphic novel biography of two literary lions follows the remarkable story of their friendship and creative fellowship, and how each came to write their masterworks.

***Plot to Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Unlikely Hero* by Patricia McCormack**

Biography

The story of theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer's brief but notable life is related in the context of his resistance to the Nazis and association with the 1944 plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

***The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II* by Candace Fleming**

Narrative Nonfiction

Amidst the brilliant cryptographers and absent-minded professors working at Bletchley Park during World War II were teenaged girls who kept Station X running.

Sarah Smith

8th grade summer reading

6/25/25

Title: Saint Julie Billiart, The Smiling Saint

Author: Mary Kathleen Glavich

Publisher: Pauline Books and Media

Publication Date: 2001

page
numbers

Notes:

- 2 baptized immediately upon birth
- 2 only surviving child of her parents until Louis
- 3 favorite subject was religion
- 7 deep faith
- 8 made First Communion early and later wrote, "Never in my life have I experienced such wonder and joy as I felt that day."
- 9 after her Confirmation she made a vow to God
- 13 sign to be a harvester
- 15 becomes a teacher in the field
- 19 selling fabric to help her family
- 19 began losing vision
- 23 illness and her suffering
- 23 kept up her work and told people, "God understands. He suffered once too. Never forget: God loves you more than anyone else in the world."
- 24 more illness and she became paralyzed
- 27 war and how Julie helped the people
- 28 examples of trusting in God
- 29 moves to chateau

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Numbers

Notes:

- 29 revolutionaries found her chateau
- 32 Julie was brought to an inn to hide.
- 34 she had a vision of Jesus on the cross.
- 37 people wanted to be near her for her deep faith
- 38 "Mother Julie"
- 39 religious persecution in France
- 40 1799 French Catholics could practice again.
- 43 Sisters of Notre Dame
- 45 she met Father Enfantin
- 46 miraculous step
- 53 missionary work
- 56 issues with Father de Sambucy
- 69 description of her being a realist
- 70 120 trips
- 75 mistake in Julie being dismissed
- 78 finding potatoes
- 82 End of the war and how she provided
- 89 1815 weak and unable to continue her work
- 89 She told a young girl, "My little Thérèse, don't be sad. God has no more use for me here. He is calling me home to himself now."
- 90 reflected on her life
- 90 apology to others
- 90 on deathbed, sang the "Magnificat"
- 90 1906 beatified
- 91 title of Blessed
- 91 message "How good is the good God!"

Summer Math Work

For Students Entering Grades 3–8

Keep your math skills sharp this summer by practicing on **IXL**!

What to Do:

- **Returning Students:**
Select **Learning** → **IXL Plans** → **NWEA MAP Growth: Math**
 - **New Students:**
Select **Learning** → **IXL Plans** → **IXL Spotlight** → **IXL Summer Boost: Math** → Select **your upcoming grade level**
-

Goal:

Spend **at least 10 hours** working on math this summer.
A little each week goes a long way!

Tips for Success:

- Set a summer math work schedule.
- Try new skills and review old ones.
- Challenge yourself and have fun!



How to Log Into IXL:

1. Go to <https://www.ixl.com/signin/smsva>
2. Login:
 - a. Username: student number@smsva
 - b. Password: sms and student number

If you have any difficulty logging in or for new students, please email ddangelo@smsva.org for login assistance.

Have a great summer! 🍁