

St. George's Episcopal School

2026 Summer Reading List for Students Entering Fifth Grade

Dear Future 5th Grader,

I am so excited about the upcoming school year. 5th grade is so much fun, and you have so many new adventures to look forward to. Some of the greatest adventures we have will be in a book next year. As a warmup for the school year, summer reading is for you to experience the joy of reading and to foster the love of literature through books and stories you may not normally pick out for yourself. Don't worry, there will be plenty of time for you to choose any book you want during the school year but focus on these over the summer. Reading includes listening to stories as well as reading books by oneself. Involvement with literature can include your entire family. Share, discuss and enjoy this special time together in a good book. Please make sure your parents approve your book choices.

This summer your required reading is *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis.

Also, choose **one** book from **the list** that follows. You can DEFINITELY choose more than one, but I am requiring that you read at least one of the books on the list in addition to your required reading. There are so many great choices on this list though, so don't be afraid to read as many as you want. Please choose a book you have not read previously.

CHOICES in READING:

- You may want to write short chapter summaries to help you remember the book when we come back to school, but it is not required.
- Be prepared to do an in-class assignment on these books (your required reading and your choice book) during the first few days of school.

Philbrick, Rodman; **The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg**

Homer P. Figg escapes from his ruthless guardian's home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army.

DiCamillo, Kate; **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane**

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him. He travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker; **The War that Saved My Life**

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of

London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

Cleary, Beverly; **Ribsy**

A wonderful week spent as the mascot for a second-grade class is just one of the adventures Henry Huggins' dog Ribsy experiences during the month he is separated from his home

Neilsen, Jennifer A.; **A Night Divided**

When her family is abruptly divided by the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta harbors forbidden thoughts about freedom and reuniting with her loved ones before a coded message from her father inspires a daring plan.

Funke, Cornelia; **The Thief Lord**

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."

Riordon, Rick; **The Lightning Thief**

Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods, where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Book #1

Birdsall, Jeanne; **The Penderwicks**

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. Book #1

Grabenstein, Chris; **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero, the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello, with other students but finds he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape. Book #1 in the Mr. Lemoncello's Library series.

Selznick, Brian; **Wonderstruck**

Ben and Rose secretly wish for better lives. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the

newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.

Gregory, Kristina; **Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell (Dear America)**

Now that we're in the North Platte River Valley the air feels dry and thin. My lips are so chapped they bleed when I talk. The only thing to do is dip our fingers in to the bucket of axle grease and rub our lips every hour or so. It smells bad, it tastes bad, and the blowing dust sticks. It feels like we must be halfway to Oregon, but Tall Joe says, no, we've only gone five hundred miles. He also says the worst part of the trail is to come.

Colfer, Chris; **Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell**

Through the mysterious powers of a book, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic, where they come face-to-face with the fairytale characters they grew up reading about.

Martin, Ann; **Rain Reign**

Rose has Asperger's syndrome and an obsession with homonyms. She shares an inseparable bond with her beloved dog Rain, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, she is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels to hopefully be reunited with her best friend.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly; **Fish in a Tree**

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is dyslexic and doesn't know how to read. Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker, and with his help, Ally learns she has nothing to be ashamed of.

Stratford, Jordan; **The Case of the Missing Moonstone**

A friendship between Ada Byron, genius daughter of Lord Byron and the world's first computer programmer, and Mary Shelley, the world's first science-fiction author who almost could have been friends in real life but for about a decade of years. Mary joins Ada to study with Ada's tutor and the duo form a detective agency while learning about another historical figure who invented hypnotism and solve the case of a stolen heirloom.

Stewart, Trenton Lee; **The Mysterious Benedict Society**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledroptia Curtain.

Ryan, Pam Munoz; **Esperanza Rising**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression. She must deal with a new way of life, new expectations, and rise above the hurt and the fear of those around her.

Riordan, Rick; **The Red Pyramid**

Siblings Carter and Sadie Kane, descendants of Egyptian magicians, must defeat the god Set after the gods are accidentally released in the present.

Armstrong, William H.; **Sounder**

Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and through his relationship with his devoted dog, Sounder.

Tarshis, Lauren; **I Survived the American Revolution, 1776**

British soldiers were everywhere. There was no escape. Nathaniel Fox never imagined he'd find himself in the middle of a blood-soaked battlefield, fighting for his life. Nate is suddenly propelled toward a thrilling and dangerous journey into the heart of the Revolutionary War. He finds himself in New York City on the brink of what will be the biggest battle yet.

Lupika, Mike; **The Big Field**

Hutch feels threatened when Darryl becomes the shortstop and Hutch is relegated to second base. He tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Brown