

Holy Cross School
Summer Reading 2023 - 2024 School Year
Grades Kindergarten through 8th

Books can be purchased from Amazon or Barnes & Noble

Students Entering Kindergarten

Please read *"Pete the Cat: Pete on the Beach"* by James Dean and fill out the Reading Log that is available on our website. *Reading Logs will be collected on the first day of school.*

(Please check the PDF file associated with your grade on the Summer Reading page of our website for all assignment work)

Students Entering 1st Grade

Please read 1 of the following books and fill out the Reading Log that is available on our website. *Reading Logs will be collected on the first day of school.*

"I Did It!" by Michael Emberley

"Don't Throw It To Me!" by David A. Adler

"The Pigeon Will Ride the Roller Coaster" by Mo Willems

"We Are in a Book- An Elephant and Piggie Book" by Mo Willems

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Students Entering 2nd Grade

Please read *"Billy Miller Makes a Wish"* by Kevin Henkes and fill out the book report form that is available on our website. *Book reports will be collected on the first day of school.*

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Students Entering 3rd Grade

Please read “*Chocolate Fever*” by Robert K. Smith and fill out the book report form that is available on our website. *Book reports will be collected on the first day of school.*

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Students Entering 4th Grade

Please read 1 following books and fill out the book report form that is available on our website. *Book reports will be collected on the first day of school.*

“*Lemonade War*” by Jacqueline Davies

“*Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America*” by Sharon Robinson

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Students Entering 5th Grade

Please read 1 following books and complete the assignment that is available on our website. *Slideshows will be shared with the teacher on the first day of school.*

“*No Talking*” by Andrew Clements

“*The Tale of Despereaux*” by Kate DiCamillo

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Students Entering 6th Grade

Please read **1** of the following books and complete the assignment that is available on our website. *Slideshows will be shared with the teacher on the first day of school.*

***Abby Carnelia's One and Only Magical Power* by David Pogue** One day, Abby Carnelia, ordinary sixth grader, realizes she has a magical power. Okay, it's not a fancy one: she can make a hard-boiled egg spin by tugging on her ears. But it's the only one she has, and it's enough to launch her into an adventure where she meets a host of kids with similarly silly powers. ©2014 **Grade Level: 5-7**

***Al Capone Does My Homework* by Gennifer Choldenko** Alcatraz Island in the 1930s isn't the most normal place to grow up, but it is home for Moose Flanagan, his autistic sister, Natalie, and all the families of the guards. When Moose's dad gets promoted to Associate Warden, despite being an unlikely candidate, it's a big deal. ©2013 **Grade Level 5-8**

***Anything But Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin** Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that Phoneix Bird—her name is Rebecca—could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is. ©2012 **Grade Level 5-7**

***Because of Anya* by Margaret Peterson Haddix** While ten-year-old Anya faces the difficulties of losing her hair to alopecia, her classmate Keely learns how to stand up for what she knows is right. ©2002 **Grade Level 5-7**

***The Boy at the End of the World* – Greg Van Eekhout** In a future world, Fisher is the last boy on earth. But evidence suggests there may be a far-away survival bunk with other humans. In order to get there, he'll need to rely on a ragtag team he assembles, including a robot, a mammoth, and a prairie dog with basic English skills. Readers will be riveted as this unlikely team races toward survival. ©2011 **Grade Level 5-8**

***The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John H. Ritter** The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato. ©2003 **Grade Level: 4 - 7**

***Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson** Jess Aarons' greatest ambition is to be the fastest runner in his grade. He's been practicing all summer and can't wait to see his classmates' faces when he beats them all. But on the first day of school, a new girl boldly crosses over to the boys' side and outruns everyone. **Newbery Medal Book ©1978 Grade Level 5-7**

***Dorko the Magnificent* – Andrea Beaty** Robbie Darko is a magician. An old-school, pull-a-rabbit-out-of-your-hat-style magician. Robbie loves magic and he's good at it—sort of. Despite his best efforts, passion, and practice, something always goes wrong with his tricks, landing Robbie in trouble. ©2013 **Grade Level 5-7**

***The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan** A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes author's notes about the poet. **Pura Belpré Award Winner ©2012 Grade Level 5-9**

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Students Entering 6th Grade Continued

***Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos** In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. **Newbery Medal Book ©2011 Grade Level 5–8**

***Eggs* by Jerry Spinelle** David has recently lost his mother to a freak accident, his salesman father is constantly on the road, and he is letting his anger out on his grandmother. Primrose lives with her unstable, childlike, fortune teller mother, and the only evidence of the father she never knew is a framed picture. **©2008 Grade Level 5-7**

***Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo** Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived. **Newbery Medal Book ©2013 Grade Level 5–7**

***Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter* by Beth Fantaskey** It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. **©2017 Grade Level 5-7**

***Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli** Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run—and not just run away, but run. **Newbery Medal ©2017 Grade Level 6-7**

***The Rat Prince* by Bridget Hodder** A new twist to an old fairy tale. When Cinderella's frightful stepmother Wilhelmina has control of the manor, nobody is safe, including the rats that she wants poisoned. Cinderella and Prince Char devise a plan to end Wilhelmina's tyranny. **©2017 Grade Level 6-7**

***Savvy* by Ingrid Law** Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. And now all Mibs wants is a savvy that will save him. **Newbery Honor Book ©2012 Grade Level 5-7**

***The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts* by Avi** Oliver is left on his own after a terrible storm hits his English community in 1724. High adventure and near disasters meet Oliver as he tries to make his way to London to find his sister, Charity. Once in London and reunited with Charity, life does not calm down. Avi leaves readers hanging—will they survive? **©2012 Grade Level 6-8**

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Students Entering 7th Grade

Please read **1** of the following books and complete the assignment that is available on our website. *Slideshows will be shared with the teacher on the first day of school.*

Assassin - Anna Myers In alternating passages, a young White House seamstress named Bella and the actor John Wilkes Booth describe the events that lead to the latter's assassination of Abraham Lincoln. ©2005 Grade Level 5–8

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth by James Giblin Most people know the name John Wilkes Booth, but few likely have heard of his elder brother Edwin. Find out about the brothers through first-hand accounts. Learn how alike and how different they were, and how each made a lasting impression on American history. ©2017 Grade Level 5–8

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy Vivid firsthand descriptions by persons who lived through the 1871 Chicago fire are woven into a gripping account that is absorbing and riveting reading. **Newbery Honor Book** ©2006 Grade Level 5–7

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech RUN, RUN, RUN that's what twelve-year-old Annie loves to do. When she's barefoot and running she can hear her heart beating. ©2004 Grade Level 5–7

Jesse Bowman: A Union Boy's War Story by Tom McGowen In this action-packed historical fiction novel, Jesse Bowman joins the Union Army in hopes of finding adventure. However, this teenage soldier learns that victory comes at a great cost. He discovers the hardships of war, horror of battle, and loss of friendship on his journey through the Civil War. ©2008 Grade Level 5–6

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead Seventh-grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. ©2013 Grade Level 6-7

Ranger's Apprentice Book One: The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan He had always wanted to be a warrior. The Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways, made him nervous. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. ©2006 Grade Level 5–7

Sand Dollar Summer by Kimberly K. Jones Twelve-year-old Lise watches her safe world fall apart when her strong, self-reliant mom is injured in a car accident. To recuperate, Mom takes Lise and her little brother to live on the beach in Maine for the summer. Although her mother grew up there, this is Lise's first experience with the ocean. She's terrified by what may be lurking in the cold depths and confused by the ways that Maine is changing her mother. ©2008 Grade Level: 6-8

Saving Lucas Biggs by Marisa de los Santos Thirteen-year-old Margaret knows her father is innocent, but that doesn't stop the cruel Judge Biggs from sentencing him to death. Margaret is determined to save her dad, even if it means using her family's secret—and forbidden—ability to time travel. @2015 Grade Level 6–8

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Students Entering 7th Grade Continued

***Secret Within* by Theresa Martin Golding** Carly Chambers spends her summer days delivering mysterious packages for her harsh father but when she sneaks out at night to find some freedom, she faces danger from all sides. ©2014 **Grade Level 6–8**

***Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers* by Gary Paulsen** In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was 15. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant or what he was fighting for. But he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. ©2000 **Grade Level 5–7**

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt** Seventh-grader, Holling Hoodhood, is convinced his teacher hates him. Through their Wednesday afternoon Shakespeare sessions she helps him cope with events both wildly funny and deadly serious. **Newbery Honor Book** ©2007 **Grade Level 5–7**

***What Elephants Know* by Eric Dinerstein** Abandoned in the jungle of the Nepalese Borderlands, two-year-old Nandu is found living under the protective watch of a pack of wild dogs. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-9**

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle** It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. **Newbery Medal** @2012 **Grade Level 6-8**

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***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston** Quinton Peters was the golden boy of the Rosewood low-income housing projects, receiving full scholarship offers to two different Ivy League schools. When he mysteriously goes missing, his little sister, 13-year-old Amari Peters, can't understand why it's not a bigger deal. Why isn't his story all over the news? And why do the police automatically assume he was into something illegal? **NAACP Image Award, Coretta Scott King Author Book Award ©2021 Grade Level 7-8**

***Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson** For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. **©2022 Grade Level 7-8**

***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose** At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor ©2016 Grade Level 8-10**

***Brother's Keeper* by Julie Lee** Twelve-year-old Sora and her family live under an iron set of rules: No travel without a permit. No criticism of the government. No absences from Communist meetings. Wear red. Hang pictures of the Great Leader. Don't trust your neighbors. Don't speak your mind. You are being watched. **©2020 Grade Level 7-8**

***Code Talker: A Novel About The Navajo Marines Of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac** After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during WW2 in his native tongue. **©2005 Grade Level 7-9**

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick** When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. **©2005 Grade Level 7-8**

***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick** Two boys - a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces - forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. **©2001 Grade Level 7-8**

***Good Different* by Meg Eden Kuyatt** Selah knows her rules for being normal. She always, always sticks to them. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on, so that she has to run to the bathroom and hide in the stall until she can calm down. So that she has to tear off her normal-person mask the second she gets home from school, and listen to her favorite pop song on repeat, trying to recharge. **©2023 Grade Level 7-8**

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Students Entering 8th Grade Continued

***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera** There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children - among them Petra and her family - have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. **Newbery Medal, Pura Belpré Award ©2021 Grade Level 7-8**

***Lily's Ghost* by Laura Ruby** Lily is Furious. She can't believe she has to move again after her mom's break-up with the latest boyfriend. Now they're broke and they'll have to spend the winter in Uncle Wes's creepy summerhouse in Cape May, New Jersey. And the place is crawling with ghosts. **©2005 Grade Level 7-8**

***Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt** In this companion novel to *The Wednesday Wars*, Doug struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. **National Book Award Finalist ©2011 Grade Level 8-9**

***Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Giff** Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. She is a mountain of trouble. She runs away even from the Regans, the one family who offers her a home. **Newbery Honor ©2004 Grade Level 7-8**

***The 13 Clocks* by Deckle Edge** The hands of all thirteen clocks stand still in the gloomy castle on a lonely hill where a wicked Duke lives with his niece, the beautiful Princess Saralinda. The Duke fancies he has frozen time, for he is afraid that one day a Prince may come and win away the hand of the Princess—the only warm hand in the castle. **©2016 Grade Level 7-8**

***The Underneath* by Kathi Appelt** A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath. **Newbery Honor, National Book Award Finalist ©2004 Grade Level 7-8**

***Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of the "Children's Ship"* by Deborah Heiligman** Amid the constant rain of German bombs and the escalating violence of World War II, British parents by the thousands chose to send their children out of the country: the wealthy, independently; the poor, through a government relocation program called CORB. In September 1940, passenger liner SS *City of Benares* set sail for Canada with one hundred children on board. **Golden Kite Award ©2023 Grade Level 6-8**

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