

June 2021

Dear St. Francis Xavier families,

**Below please find information regarding 2021 required summer reading for grades 4-8. Students should choose one book from the lists below, which were generated with the help of classroom teachers, from the grade they will be entering in the fall. They should have this reading completed by the time school starts, as they will have an assignment that involves the book they chose once school resumes.**

You will also find general book suggestions for Grades K-8 and ideas to keep your student reading all summer long. **I encourage students to include their parents in the discussion about which books to read from the lists below, as the reading levels and topics vary greatly.** Finally, don't forget that most high schools will require summer reading, so have your 8th graders check out their school website for that information.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer vacation.  
Sincerely,

Katie Filbin  
SFX Learning Resource Center  
*We Pray, We Learn, We Serve, We Read!*

#### **REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR GRADES 4-8**

##### **4th Grade - choose 1**

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street\* by Karina Yan Glaser  
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume  
The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davis  
Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein

##### **5th Grade - choose 1**

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street\* by Karina Yan Glaser  
Framed\* by James Ponti  
The Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman  
Extra Credit by Andrew Clements

##### **6th Grade - choose 1**

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko  
Holes by Louis Sachar  
The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
Roll With It\* by Jamie Sumner

##### **7th Grade - choose 1**

The Watson's Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis  
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielsen  
Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"\*\*\* by Deborah Heiligman  
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

## 8th Grade - choose 1

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall

Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship"\*\* by Deborah Heiligman

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's Chocolate Pilot by Michael O. Tunnell

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

\*-on the 2022 Bluestem Award List

\*\* -on the 2022 Rebecca Caudill Award List

## General resources:

**ALL public libraries will have reading programs, both virtual and in-person, this summer. Please go to their websites for more information, or stop by the library.**

The website Brightly offers great articles about encouraging good reading habits, as well as book suggestions. <https://www.readbrightly.com/>

I highly recommend the Naperville Public Library website, which has compiled several book recommendation lists to help you and your student find plenty of books to keep them reading:

<https://www.naperville-lib.org/materials/recommended-lists#>

Wondering if a book is appropriate for your child? Type in its title and check it out here: <https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

List of Young Readers books on Goodreads

<https://www.goodreads.com/genres/young-readers>

2020-2021 Anderson's Bookshop Mock Newbery Award list of books

<https://www.andersonsbookshop.com/mock-newbery>

2020-21 Texas Bluebonnet Award Book List

[https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/141005.2020\\_2021\\_Texas\\_Bluebonnet\\_Award\\_List](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/141005.2020_2021_Texas_Bluebonnet_Award_List)

Naperville District 203 Battle of the Books 2020-21 List:

<http://www.libraryaware.com/1186/NewsletterIssues/ViewIssue/a2bd16c1-1693-4b5f-af28-93083e347858?timestamp=1589820610183>

LaGrange / LaGrange Park Tween Battle of the Books Program:

<https://www.lplibrary.org/events2/battle-of-the-books-sign-up-deadline-tweens-and-teens/?occurrence=2020-06-22>

Nine ways to get teens reading (article for parents):

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/9-ways-to-get-teens-reading>

I encourage students to include their parents in the discussion about which books to read from the lists below, as the reading levels and topics vary greatly.

### **Book Suggestions for Grades K-2**

The books listed below have a wide range of reading levels. Students should use the “5 Finger Rule” they have learned to make sure their choice is a “Good Fit” book.

#### **Popular Series Books (each of the series below contain multiple books)**

Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows

American Girl Series

Horrible Harry by Suzy Kline

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo

Jigsaw Jones by James Preller

Amber Brown by Paula Danzinger

Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park

Sports series for girls and boys by Jake Maddox

Sports series for boys and girls by Matt Christopher

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Stink by Megan McDonald

Capital Mysteries by Ron Roy

A to Z Mysteries by Ron Roy

Ready Freddy by Abby Klein

My Weird School by Dan Gutman

Ballpark Mysteries by David Kelly

Heartwood Hotel by Kallie George

Galaxy Zack by Ray O’Ryan

Princess in Black by LeUyen Pham

Bramble & Maggie by Jessie Haas

Owl Diaries by Rebecca Elliott

Chicken Squad by Doreen Cronin

Cam Jansen by David Adler

Clementine by Marla Frazee

Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker by Shelley Johannes

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Anything from the 2020 Monarch Award book list

Step-Into-Reading leveled books and other leveled reading series

### **Book Suggestions for Grades 3 - 5**

2022 Bluestem list (Geared towards grades 3-5, however contains a wide reading level and subject matter. All books are available at public libraries.):

<https://www.aisled.org/pdf/Bluestem-Master-List-2022-2nd-Edition.pdf>

*Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* by Kate DiCamillo

*Pie* by Sarah Weeks

*Wings of Fire* series by Tui Sutherland (very popular with SFX students)  
*The One and Only Ivan* and *The One and Only Bob* by Katherine Applegate  
*Pax* by Sara Pennypacker  
*First Class Murder & Poison is Not Polite* - Wells and Wong Mysteries by Robin Stevens  
*Full of Beans* and *Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer Holm  
*Gertie's Leap to Greatness* by Kate Beasley  
*Superfudge* and others by Judy Blume  
*Beezus and Ramona* and others by Beverly Cleary  
*Harry Potter* Series by J.K. Rowling  
*Series of Unfortunate Events* Series by Lemony Snicket  
*Time Warp Trio* Series by Jon Scieszka  
*Hardy Boys Mysteries* Franklin W. Dixon  
*Nancy Drew* series by Carolyn Keene  
*James and the Giant Peach* and others by Roald Dahl  
*Stuart Little* and *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick  
*Clementine & The Talented Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker  
*Waiting for the Magic* by Patricia MacLachlan  
*The Report Card* and others by Andrew Clements  
*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo  
*The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown  
*11 Birthdays* by Wendy Mass  
*The Book Scavenger* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman  
*Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer  
*Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow* by Jessica Townsend  
*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio  
*The Great Hibernation* by Tara Dairman  
*The Phantom Tower* by Keir Graff  
*Library of Ever* by Zeno Alexander  
*Imagination Station* by Marianne Hering  
*The Last Kids on Earth* series by Max Brallier  
*Lemons* by Melissa Savage  
*The Million Dollar Shot* by Dan Gutman  
*The Baseball Card Adventure* series by Dan Gutman  
*The Matt Christopher* sports series  
*The Jake Maddox* sports series  
*The Who Was? Series*, the *Who Is? Series*, and the *Where Is? Series*  
*The Little House* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*The I Survived* series  
*The Horse Diaries* Series  
*The Last Brother : A Civil War Tale* by Trinka Hakes Noble  
*Baseball Saved Us* by Ken Mochizuki  
*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*  
*Babe and Me* and other books in Dan Gutman's baseball series

2022 Rebecca Caudill list (Geared towards grades 6-8, however contains a wide reading level and subject matter. All books are available at public libraries).

<https://www.rebeccacaudill.org/images/2022/2022CaudillAuthorList.pdf>

Many popular adult books can be found in Young Reader Editions -- some to check out include: DaVinci Code; I am Malala; Chasing Space; Shoe Dog; The Red Bandana; Boys in the Boat & Hidden Figures. There are many more!

Books by Alan Gratz: Grenade, Allies, Code of Honor, Prisoner B-3087, Projekt 1065

Books by Gordon Korman: Ungifted, Masterminds series, Restart, What's His Face, Schooled, The Unteachables

Books by Carl Hiaasen: Chomp, Squirm, Flush, Hoot

Books by Stuart Gibbs, Mike Lupica & Tim Green

Ghost series by Jason Reynolds

A Night Divided, Words on Fire and Resistance by Jennifer Nielsen

The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani

Bloom by Kenneth Oppel

Fish in a Tree and Shouting at the Rain by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

City Spies and other mysteries by James Ponti

Theodore Boone series by John Grisham

Michael Vey series by Rihard Paul Evans

Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz

The 7th Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall

Listen, Slowly by Thanhha Lai

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Bradley

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan

Stella by Starlight by Shaanon Draper

Cinder by Marissa Meyer

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Prairie Lotus by Linda Sue Park

The Strangers by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Breakout by Kate Messner

The Great Wide Sea by M.H. Herlong

Peak by Roland Smith

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling