

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School Summer Reading Assignments for 2020-21



Summer reading is a great way for children to enjoy good books while helping them to prepare for the upcoming school year. As with other skills, reading improves with practice and research has shown that children who do not read during the summer months begin the new school year at a disadvantage. The books selected for summer reading will be the basis for classroom discussion and activities during the first week of school. **Students should read books from the choices listed below for the grade they will be entering.** All of the titles listed are available in paperback through book stores or online, electronically for an e-reader, or through the public library. Reading levels are provided for each book to help you and your child choose the books best suited for their reading ability.

Kindergarten – No required reading

Grades 1 – 2:

- **Grade One: Practice [Dolch Sight Words](#) and choose one book from below:**
 - *Biscuit Goes to School* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.9 reading level)
 - *Johnny Appleseed* by Jane Kurtz (1.1 reading level)
 - *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell (1.2 reading level)

- **Grade Two: Choose two books from below:**
 - *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman (1.6 reading level)
 - Any *Henry and Mudge* book by Cynthia Rylant (low to mid 2nd grade range)
 - Any *Nate the Great* book by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (mid to upper 2nd grade range)

For each book read, students should write a one paragraph report that will be collected on the first day of school and graded. Reports should be handwritten and include a sentence for each of the following:

- The title and author of the book
- What is the plot (what is the book about)?
- What happened first in the book?
- What happened next in the book?
- What happened last in the book?
- Opinion of the book and why you liked or disliked the book

Grades Three, Four, and Five:

- **Grade Three: Choose two books from below:**
 - *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo (2.7 reading level)
 - *A to Z Mysteries: The Absent Author* by Ron Roy (3.4 reading level)
 - *Night of the Full Moon* by Gloria Whelan (4.2 reading level)

- **Grade Four: Choose two books from below:**

- *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo (3.9 reading level)
- *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein (4.5 reading level)
- *Blood on the River* by Lisa Carbone (5.3 reading level)

● **Grade Five: Choose two books from below:**

- *Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson (4.4 reading level)
- *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan (4.9 reading level)
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart (5.6 reading level)
- *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt (5.9 reading level)

For each book read, students should write a three paragraph report that will be collected on the first day of school and graded. Each paragraph should contain five to seven sentences, be handwritten or typed, and include the following:

Paragraph 1:

- The title and author
- What is the setting of the story (where and when does it take place)?
- Who are the main characters? Describe any including a physical description (what do they look like) and personality traits (are they friendly, shy, mean). Include details to back up your statements.

Paragraph 2:

- What is the book's plot (what is it about)?
- Write at least four sentences to explain what the book is about.
- Write about something that surprised you in the story.

Paragraph 3:

- What is your opinion of the book?
- If you liked the book, what was your favorite part?
- If you didn't like the book, what didn't you like about it? Be specific.
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be? How would you change it?

Grades Six, Seven, and Eight:

All middle school students are required to read ***both*** books on the summer reading list. All of the titles listed are available in paperback in book stores or online, electronically for an e-reader, or through the public library.

6th Grade

Mara, Daughter of the Nile by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Saint Paul the Apostle: The Story of the Apostle to the Gentiles by Mary Fabyan Windeatt

7th Grade

The Giver by Lois Lowry

If All the Swords in England by Barbara Williard

8th Grade

Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington

Saint Pius the X: The Farm Boy Who Became Pope by Walter Diethelm, O.S.B.

All students must be ready to discuss the plot, theme, and characters (The 5 W's: Who, What, Where, When, and Why) of each book. ***Students should be prepared to take a quiz on both books when we return to school.***

ALA Students:

Choosing one book from the grade-level list, students should type a five paragraph report that will be collected on the first Tuesday after school begins. This is a graded assignment. Reports must be double-spaced. The report may be typed or handwritten, but *if* typed, must be in Times New Roman 12pt. font with one-inch margins. Each paragraph should contain five to seven sentences and include the following:

Paragraph 1:

Include the title and author of the book. Describe in detail the setting of the book including the time period in which it takes place. If there is more than one setting, be sure to include all and explain how the setting(s) affects the plot of the novel. Include details to back up your statements.

Paragraph 2:

Describe the main character(s). What part do they play in the plot? Be sure to include details about each character (if more than one)—including physical description and personality traits. Did any of the characters change or surprise you during the novel? If so, how?

Paragraph 3:

What is the conflict (main problem) in the book? Is it solved and if so, how is it solved? Be sure to provide details.

Paragraph 4:

What connections can you make between the setting and characters to other books you have read or personal experiences you have had? For example, have you read another book that took place during the same time period or same place? Did you have an experience that was similar to one of the characters in the book? Explain your answers by using specific examples from the book or your personal experiences to back up your statements.

Paragraph 5:

What is your opinion of the book? Did you find it interesting or boring? Would you recommend it to someone else? Why or why not?

ALA Summer Report Rubric

- Format/Mechanics (**1pt./paragraph**) - *Double-spaced, heading, 1" margins, spelling, grammar usage*
- Length/Directions (**1pt./paragraph**) - *Paragraphs are 5-7 sentences, include details and/or examples from the novels*

- Content (**2 pt./paragraph**) - *Each paragraph answers the questions in a clear and concise fashion*