

St. Mary's Episcopal School Presents



the

SUMMER  
READING  
GUIDE

2024

Recommended and required reading  
for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> — 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2	Welcome
Page 3	Award Winning Books, 2023
Pages 4-8	Fantastic Fiction
Page 9	Nonfiction
Page 10	<u>Required</u> Summer reading
Page 11-12	Reading Log

## HOWDY, Y'ALL!

Ready for swimming, biking, watermelon-eating contests and more? I am! I'm also excited to read some great new books because summer is FUNNER when great books take you on journeys only books can take you on. Here are some great books for you to carry on your travels or right at home in your own backyard!

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- ☼ reading is fun!
- ☼ reading is very good for you—for you now and the future you!
- ☼ St. Mary's wants everyone to read over the summer—it helps you remember what you just learned and be ready for more!

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- ☼ read—at least 5 books on or near your reading level.
- ☼ use this guide to make finding good books easy, but don't limit yourself to this guide—read what you can, where you can!
- ☼ if you'd like a Bookworm Award (aka: a Certificate of Accomplishment), turn in a reading log by the first day of school. Luckily, there's a built-in log right in this guide!

Happy Reading! Mrs. England-Burnside, May 2024

# AWARD WINNERS!

THESE WERE THE TIP OF THE TOP FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2023!



## RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AWARD

*Big* by Vashti Harrison



## THEODORE SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

*Fox Has a Problem* by Corey R. Tabor



## JOHN NEWBERY AWARD

*The Eyes and the Impossible* by Dave Eggers



## ROBERT F. SIBERT INFORMATIONAL BOOK AWARD

*The Mona Lisa Vanishes* by Nicholas Day



## CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD

**ILLUSTRATOR AWARD:** *An American Story* by Kwame Alexander



## PURA BELPRÉ AWARD

*Mexikid: a Graphic Memoir* by Pedro Martin



## THE CHARLOTTE ZOLOTOW AWARD

*Just Like Grandma* by Kim Rogers



## THE EZRA JACK KEATS AWARDS

**AUTHOR WINNER:** *Nell Plants a Tree* by Anne Wynter

**ILLUSTRATOR WINNER** *The Only Way to Make Bread* by Sarah Gonzales



## THE NATIONAL BOOK YOUTH AWARD

*A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat



## SEQUOYAH AWARD (given by Oklahoma Children)

*Cookies and Milk* by Shawn Amos



## THE OKLAHOMA BOOK AWARD – Children's Award

*Benita and the Night Creatures* by Mariana Llanos

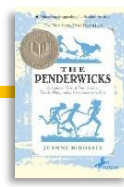
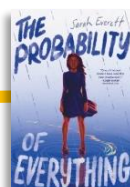
# FANTASTIC FICTION!

## KEY TO GENRE SYMBOLS:

📖 = a Classic    🧠 = Science Fiction    🪄 = Fantasy/Magic  
😊 = Funny!    🔍 = Mystery/Detective Story    \* = part of a series  
🐾 = Animal Fiction    🕸 = Spooky    🚴 = Sports  
🏍 = Adventure    🏰 = Historical Fiction    📄 = Short Stories  
BOOK TITLE IN BLUE = BRAND NEW BOOKS IN 2023-24



*Dear reader, just read, even if it's not from the following pages...just read. Always read.*



### ***A Spoonful of Time*** 🧠

**Flora Ahn**

Maya discovers that while she is starting to lose her Halmunee (grandma) to dementia, she gains a special gift: the family's ability to time-travel through food! Maya learns more about her family than she ever knew before, and learns some recipes to keep for her future (which are included, for yours!).

### ***Dogtown*** 🧠 🐾 \*

**Katherine Applegate**

The "Dogtown" animal shelter helps orphaned, naughty, or abandoned dogs along with...robot dogs? Yes, robot dogs are a thing here. Chance, a three-legged pup has doubts about the robots until a memorable adventure.

### ***The Probability of Everything***

**Sarah Barrett**

In a few short days, an asteroid just may smash right into planet Earth! Not ready to leave it all behind without a trace, budding scientist Kemi decides to make a time capsule of her family.

### ***The Penderwicks: a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*** \*😊

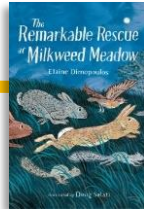
**Jeanne Birdsall**

Ready for an escape to the country with a lively and interesting family? Look no further than this future-classic about four sisters, their widowed dad, and all the adventures one family can have in a few short months. Super good.

## ***The Children of Green Knowe*** 🏠 🕸

**L. M. Boston**

The first in the classic “Green Knowe” series in which young Tully discovers secrets in every room of his family’s old manor estate: Green Knowe. It’s rambling and vast, deep in the English countryside and full of secrets. What kind of secrets? Let’s say they’re spooky, but not scary. A re-re-readable book!



## ***Danny, the Champion of the World*** 🏠 😊

**Roald Dahl**

A fun, farcical story of a devoted father and his son, Danny. During the day, Danny learns mechanics at his father’s side, and at night, father weaves magical tales of wonder. When Danny learns a deeply hidden secret of his father’s, they work together to set right an old injustice, with great results!

## ***The Lemonade War*** 😊

**Jacqueline Davies**

Evan has just found out that he’ll be in the same fourth grade class as his younger sister, Jesse, and is *not* happy. Arguments ensue and a challenge based on sales of their respective lemonade stands will determine the winner.

## ***Worst Broommate Ever!*** 🧹 😊 \*

**Wanda Coven**

Heidi Heckelbeck used to keep her magical abilities a secret at her elementary school. But now that she’s in a boarding school with classes just for witches, she can be herself! That is until she discovers her roommate is her old rival!

## ***The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow*** 🐰

**Elaine Dimopolous**

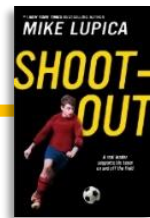
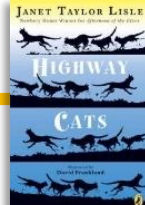
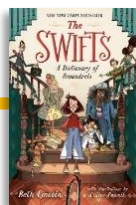
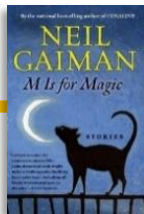
In the heart of Milkweed Meadow, adventurous bunny, Butternut, has always been told to keep to her kind. But in her brave heart full of epic stories, she knows a community is better than isolation. When a chance to prove herself comes, will she be true to herself and risk her family’s disappointment?

## ***Alone*** 🐾

**Megan Freeman**

After a global catastrophe leaves her all alone except for the neighbor’s dog, Maddie must learn to survive by her wits. The harsh Colorado winter sends her indoors with only the books from the local library as her guide. Will she ever learn what happened or be reunited with her family?





### **M Is for Magic** 📖 🐱 😊

**Neil Gaiman**

Gathering tales from high and low, Gaiman weaves wonder with his usual flair that is sometimes sneaky in its brilliance. Full of allusions to well-known myths or folklore, these are sometimes scary, certainly funny & make you love Gaiman!

### **Max in the House of Spies** 📖 🕵️ 🏠 🐭 \*

**Adam Gidwitz**

From the genius who wrote *The Inquisitor's Tale* (fantastic book) comes this tale of *theoretical* spying, in which *perhaps* the holocaust may have been avoided if kids were allowed to be spies.

### **Living Ghosts & Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories** 📖 🕸️

**Dan Jones**

For those wanting a little spookiness, try these 30+ stories on spirits, witches, zombies, and more from Native American cultures spanning North America.

### **The Swifts: a Dictionary of Scoundrels** 😊 🕵️ \*

**Beth Lincoln**

In her huge family, in their huge home, Shenanigan Swift wants to make her mark as the one who finally finds their ancestor's buried treasure! But then Swifts start dropping like flies—who wants this many Swifts dead and why?!? A classic if dark whodunit with hilarious wording and a twisty ending!

### **Highway Cats** 🐱

**Janet Taylor Lisle**

A highway median is a perfect place for kittens to grow up, right? Well, maybe the person who dumped them there thought so, but the three little kittens get absorbed into a group of feral highway cats. A hopeful, funny & sweet tale.

### **Shoot-Out** 🚲

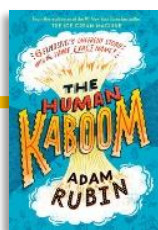
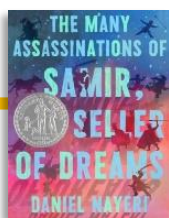
**Mike Lupica**

Jake goes from being top dog on his winning soccer team to underdog on a small-town team when his family moves. His new reality makes him decide if he wants to be a loser on a losing team or show true sportsmanship and lead as team captain, even if he's not always making the winning shots.

### **Song for a Whale** 🐳

**Kelly Lynne**

Iris, deaf since birth, knows what it's like to feel disconnected. When she learns of "Blue-55", a whale whose song frequency isn't audible to other whales, she feels a strong bond and sets out to try to help him. Based on whale "52 Blue."



### ***The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams*** 🚲 🏠

**Daniel Nayeri**

From former Edmondite & Printz Award winner comes a tale of the original superhighway: the Silk Road. “Monkey” shares how he was rescued by Samir, a sketchy trader. Full of lore and laughter with color illustrations.

### ***A Long Way from Chicago*** 🏠 😊 \*

**Richard Peck**

Such a rich, loving, and laugh-out-loud funny story of a brother and sister and how they leave Depression-era Chicago to spend time with the cantankerous old granny they’ve not really known...until now. But now that they know her, they don’t want to leave. And you won’t either!

### ***The Human Kaboom*** 🧠 🚲 😊 📖 \*

**Adam Rubin**

In this follow-up to Rubin’s 2022 story collection, *The Ice Cream Machine*, readers will get another supernova-size dose of imagination! The stories share the theme that imagination is everywhere. Funny and thought-provoking!

### ***Game Over, Pete Watson*** 😊 🚲 🎮

**Joe Schreiber**

Pete is way into eGames and can’t wait for the latest edition of his favorite game to be released. To afford it, he has a garage sale in which his dad’s ancient game console turns out to be not just valuable, but *legendary*.

### ***The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall*** 🕵️ 🏠 🚲

**Ali Standish**

Young Sherlock Holmes is invited to attend Baskerville Hall—a place for exceptionally gifted children. He makes friends but learns the school has great secrets, including its own secret society. Soon to be a tv show!

### ***The Lost Library*** 🕵️ 📖 🚲

**Rebecca Stead and Wendy Maas**

The fire that burned down the Martinville library took not just books but also clues to how or why it started. Twenty years later, a little-free library tended by a ghost librarian and a fluffy orange cat mysteriously pops up—curious!

### ***The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez*** 😊

**Robin Yardi**

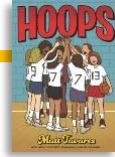
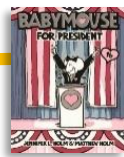
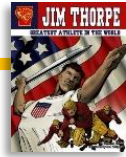
Just because Mateo likes to *pretend* he’s a medieval knight during the day doesn’t mean that two talking skunks didn’t *actually* steal his old trike one night. Full of humor, compassion, and a bit of magical thinking—a winner!

# GROOVY GRAPHIC NOVELS!

In addition to the symbols for “Fantastic Fiction”...

® = nonfiction (real)

« = published first as a novel



**Squire and Knight** 🐉\*

**Scott Chantler**

When Sir Kelton and his brainy squire arrive in Bridgetown, they try to reverse its situation as “cursed” by the local fire-breathing dragon...piece of cake!

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** « 🎮 🗝️ 😊 \*

**Chris Grabenstein**

When world-famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello designs the new town library, Kyle is thrilled to get a coveted invitation to a lock-in on opening night.

**Jim Thorpe: Greatest Athlete in the World** ®

**Jennifer Fandel**

Get ready for this summer's Olympics by learning about Oklahoma's own Jim Thorpe—a versatile athlete who brought home gold in athletics *and* character.

**The Mighty Bite** 😊 🦖 \*

**Nathan Hale**

The maker of favorite Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales presents a new series featuring extinct animals trying to gain social media fame....wait, what? Read.

**Babymouse for President** 😊 🗳️ \*

**Jennifer Holm**

I know who I'm casting my ballot for this November: Babymouse! Of course she's running for Student Council, but she's a worthy candidate! Read & vote!

**The Moth Keeper** 🦋

**Kay O'Neill**

Anya is excited to become old enough to fully take her place in the community as a “moth keeper”—a vital job for the survival of her clan.

**Hoops** 🚲

**Matt Tavares**

A fictionalized retelling of the true event: 1975 in Indiana, the Wilkins Regional High School girls' basketball team goes through unimaginable odds to win.

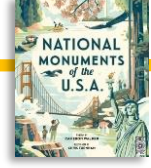
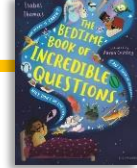
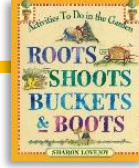
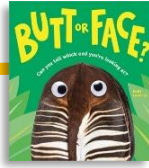
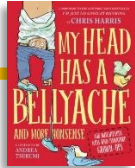
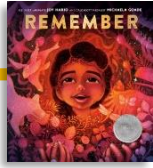
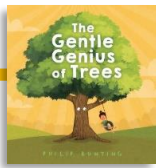
**The 39 Clues: Maze of Bones** « 🎮 🗝️ \*

**Ethan Young**

The start of the “39 Clues” craze as a graphic novel! The Cahills embark on a world-wide challenge against *other* Cahills, tracking down 39 clues to treasure.



# NIFTY NONFICTION & POETRY!



## ***The Gentle Genius of Trees***

**Phillip Bunting**

One of several books recently on the amazingness of trees that we are only now coming to understand. Learn of talking trees, fungi friendships, and more!

## ***Remember***

**Joy Harjo**

From the United States Poet Laureate (Tulsa born and raised) comes a poetic invitation to find joy in the beauty of the universe and all its wonder.

## ***My Head Has a Bellyache***

**Chris Harris**

From SMES favorite for his earlier book, *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming*, comes a new collection of must-read, hilarious and often genius rhymes. *Please read!*

## ***Firefly July: a Year of Very Short Poems***

**edited by Paul Janeczko**

Just when you need to take your mind off of very serious life problems comes soothing poetry like this. Dip your toes into a little verse and be refreshed!

## ***Butt or Face?***

**Kari Lavelle**

Despite its perhaps slightly controversial title, this book (or is it a game?) will enchant and delight readers by inviting them to guess what end of an animal they're seeing while sharing lots of facts about the animals. Sneaky but smart!

## ***Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots***

**Sharon Lovejoy**

Making its annual appearance on the SMES SR Guide is this amazing book, all about encouraging you to *GET OUTSIDE AND GROW STUFF!* Because it's fun.

## ***The Bedtime Book of Incredible Questions***

**Isabel Thomas**

We all have asked "why" and this is a great collection to keep up the innate human habit of curiosity & reminder that science is about asking the right questions, not just having facts. Live on, curiosity!

## ***National Monuments of the U.S.A.***

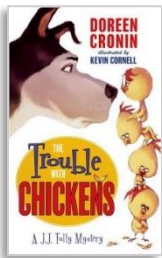
**Cameron Walker**

Before you head out on that road trip, grab a copy of this amazing collection of facts, maps, and history on our nation's amazing monuments! Thorough & fun.

# YOUR REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Up to this page, everything in this guide has been a *suggestion* that we think you'll *really* like. The books on this page are not just suggestions, but for each grade, one of them is required to be fully and *completely* read before the first day of school in August. Fortunately, they're all great and you'll be glad you did, especially after having great talks with your classmates and new teacher. Don't let it be scary—start soon and make sure it's read by the first day of school!

**\*\*FOR the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE BOOKS: the covers may vary, but the inside is the same.**

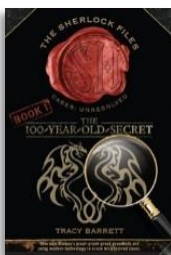
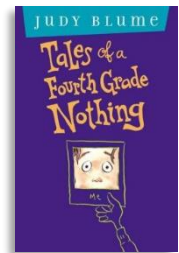


## Third Graders Will Read:

*The Trouble With Chickens* by Doreen Cronin

## Fourth Graders Will Read:

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume



## Fifth Graders Will Read:

*The 100 Year-Old Secret* by Tracy Barrett

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## My Reading Log!

Here's the place to record what you've read over the summer and even what you thought of it! You can give a book 0 – 5 stars, if you like. Remember to fill in the Required Reading Books!

TITLE	AUTHOR	# of Stars
-------	--------	------------

1. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends?    Yes    No    (circle one)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends?    Yes    No    (circle one)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends?    Yes    No    (circle one)

4. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends?    Yes    No    (circle one)

5. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends?    Yes    No    (circle one)

Read at least this many to get a Bookworm Award!

# My Reading Log, Continued!

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ AUTHOR \_\_\_\_\_ # of Stars \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

7. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

8. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

9. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

10. \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite character: \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite part of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

**don't stop here!!**      **keep reading!!**