



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL PRESENTS

recommended

and

required reading

Summer 2025

FOR RISING

3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

smiles reads around the world!



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## WELL HELLO THERE!

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 to keep your brain sharp!

### 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 2025

*PS: send me a postcard care of SMES from your summer travels! It'll be so fun seeing where we traveled, near or far! Send 'em to: 505 E. Covell, Edmond, OK 73034*

# AWARD WINNERS!

THESE WERE THE TIP OF THE TOP FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2024!



## RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AWARD

*Chooch Helped* by Andrea Rogers



## THEODORE SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

*Vacation* by Ame Dyckman



## JOHN NEWBERY AWARD

*The First State of Being* by Erin Entrada Kelly



## ROBERT F. SIBERT INFORMATIONAL BOOK AWARD

*Life After Whale* by Lynn Brunelle



## CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD

**ILLUSTRATOR AWARD:** *My Daddy Is a Cowboy* by Stephanie Seales



## PURA BELPRÉ AWARD

**AUTHOR AWARD:** *Lola* by Karla Valenti

**ILLUSTRATOR AWARD:** *The Dream Catcher* by Marcelo Verdad



## THE CHARLOTTE ZOLOTOW AWARD

*I Know How to Draw an Owl* by Hilary Huppely



## THE EZRA JACK KEATS AWARDS

**AUTHOR WINNER:** *Go Forth and Tell* by Breanna McDaniel

**ILLUSTRATOR WINNER:** *We Are Definitely Human* by X. Fant



## THE NATIONAL BOOK YOUTH AWARD

*Kareem Between* by Shifa Saltagi Safadi



## THE IRMA BLACK AWARD

*The King Penguin* by Vanessa Roeder



## SEQUOYAH AWARD (given by Oklahoma Children)

*Dogtown* by Katherine Applegate

# FANTASTIC FICTION!

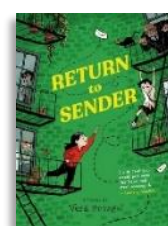
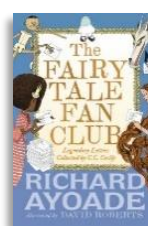
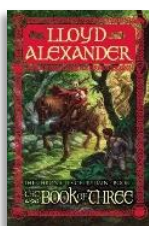
## KEY TO GENRE SYMBOLS:

📖 = 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 2024-25



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



### **The Book of Three** 📖 🪄 🚗 \*

Lloyd Alexander

Borrowing from Welsh mythology, Alexander begins the classic “Chronicles of Prydain” series with this un-put-downable adventure.

### **The One and Only Family** 🐾 \*

Katherine Applegate

The next and final episode of Bob’s adventures—a must read!

### **The Barn** 🏰

Avi

A family of newly settled pioneers to the Willamette Valley in Oregon face a challenge when father falls gravely ill and it’s up to the children to continue running the farm, including building the barn.

### **The Fairy Tale Fan Club** 🪄 😊

Richard Ayoade

Senior Secretary of the “Fairy Tale Fan Club”, C. C. Cecily, has collected and here shares an assortment of letters written by fans to ask what ever happened to Pinocchio, the Little Mermaid, or Little Red Riding Hood.

### **Return to Sender** 🧪

Vera Borgsol

Oliver and his mom have just moved into a remarkable apartment house, a relief after the crazy last few years. Crazier though, is that the apartment has a wish-granting mailbox...but each wish has a price!

### **The Frindle Files**

Andrew Clements

Fans of Clements' beloved *Frindle* will be thrilled to know that at long last, *Frindle* has a sequel; Clements' final posthumous gift to us all. Techie Josh is annoyed with Mr. N—his ELA teacher who is a tech dinosaur.

### **Moo ☺**

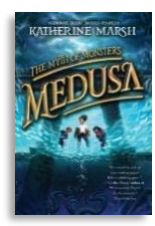
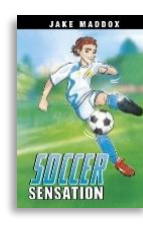
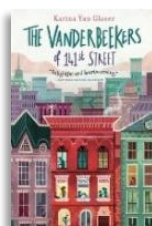
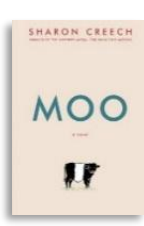
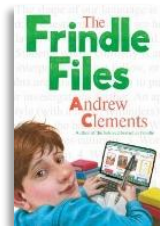
Sharon Creech

Reena's family has made a huuuuge change by moving from NYC to a farm in Maine, but it doesn't stop there. Reena and her brother are told to help a neighbor whose unruly cow, Zora, just may send Reena packing.

### **The Vanderbeekers of 121<sup>st</sup> Street**

Karina Yan Glaser

When you're ready for a little coolness after the heat, pick up this story about a loving family trying to convince their crotchety landlord not to kick them out just before Christmas. Can they change his heart in time?



### **The Volcano Challenge 🏍️**

Bear Grylls

Fans of Bear Grylls' tv series featuring his real life adventures will enjoy this series about children learning not just survival skills and all about the natural world, but how to have confidence and trust in themselves.

### **The Gate, the Girl, and the Dragon 🐉 🏍️**

Grace Lin

Inspired by Chinese mythology, meet Jin, a lion who guards the Old City Gate as a stone spirit, but enters the human realm accidentally. He must rely on a motley crew of characters to help him get back to *his* world...a real nail biter! Gorgeous color illustrations throughout.

### **Soccer Sensation 🏍️ \***

Jake Maddox

Cameron hopes to be a soccer sensation, but he mostly plays because his dad is sure he'll win a scholarship. Now they've moved and his new town has a team...barely. Will this rough team will make soccer fun again?

### **Medusa 🐉 🏍️ \***

Katherine Marsh

Fans of *The Lightning Thief* (and there are a *lot* at SMES!) get ready for this new series! At the Accadaemia del Forte in Venice, descendants of monsters from Greek mythology learn to control their emotions.

### **A Wolf Called Fire** 🐺 🚗 \*

Roseanne Parry

A companion to the hit 2019 adventure (and SMES favorite), *A Wolf Called Wander*. This continues the story of the wolf pack we first met in “Wander”, but now we meet Wander’s brother, Warm.



### **Hatchet** 🏠 🚗

Gary Paulsen

The classic story of survival and determination will have you reading past your bedtime, waiting to find out if Brian—sole survivor of a plane crash—can make it with only his wits and a small beat-up ax to help.

### **The Westing Game** 🔑 🏠 🕷️

Ellen Raskin

Fans of detective/mystery stories will revel in this paradox, wrapped in a riddle, tucked in a mystery! Sam Westing’s will is to be read but all those at the reading are strangers, until they learn they are to work together to solve Westing’s unusual death!

### **A Day at the Beach** 😊 📖

Gary Schmidt

A hot day at a busy beach provides many eyes through which to describe what’s going on. This collection of funny, quirky, sly, and bonkers stories shows that someone a foot away is living a very different reality.

### **The Best Worst Summer of Esme Sun** 🚲

Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Esme wants to just chill around the pool with her swim team friends this summer, but her growth spurt has given her an advantage leading to big wins. Now she really wants to compete, but will it cost her friendships?

### **The Bronze Bow** 🏠 🏰 🚗

Elizabeth George Speare

Set in Roman-held Israel, meet Daniel who has vowed to avenge his father’s death by driving the Romans off of Israeli land. But then Daniel hears about the teachings of a traveling preacher from Nazareth named Jesus. Enjoy this action-packed novel filled with biblical love and wisdom.

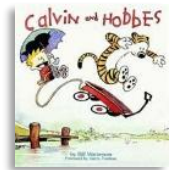
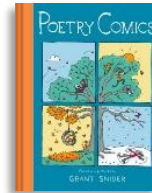
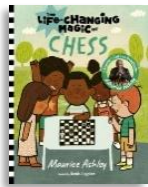
### **A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall** 🕸️ 🔑

Suzanne Warga

Rami has to go to his mom’s work with her over Spring Break, which could be cool since it’s a huge museum, if there was someone else to hang with. But then weird things happen: first a painting gets stolen, then Rami sees a ghost and is *sure* it’s of the girl in the stolen painting!



# GREAT GRAPHIC NOVELS!



## ***The Life-Changing Magic of Chess***

Maurice Ashley

Need a great game to play while keeping cool? Learn about the ancient game of chess as well as a real grand-master who rose to fame from humble beginnings.

## ***Curveball***

Pablo Cartaya

Elena just does *not* want to play baseball, so fakes an injury to get out of the summer season. Still, she has to do *something*, so, with the help of her brother, creates an entirely new sport! A creative and fun read!

## ***Art Club***

Rashad Doucet

Dale is a smart kid but his school doesn't do much for him. He knows his true talents lie with the arts, but when his school cuts their art program, Dale decides to start his own after-school art club!

## ***Queen of the Sea***

Dylan Meconis

Daring and intrigue abound with a royal drama (based on the life of Queen Elizabeth I). Here, Eleanor is banished to a small island inhabited by a (suspicious) convent of nuns and a mysterious girl. So much to love!

## ***Poetry Comics***

Grant Snider

The premise is as simple as the title, but it's still a very cool book with a lot of great poetry presented through comic illustrations.

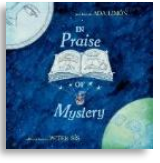
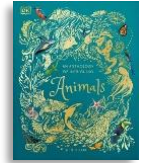
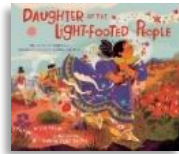
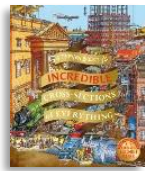
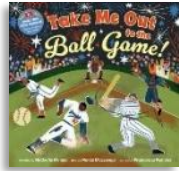
## ***Calvin and Hobbes***

Bill Watterson

It has become more clear recently that a lot of students now have no idea about this dynamic duo. The summer is ahead; make reading this and as many of the follow-ups as possible (in order helps) as possible.

# NONFICTION

## INCLUDING POETRY AND BIOGRAPHIES



### ***Take Me Out to the Ball Game!***

Nathalie Alonso

A look at our 'National Pastime', from its origins to its present-day popularity around the globe. Includes a QR code to listen to the song as you read!

### ***David Atherton's Baking Book***

David Atherton

This winner of "The Great British Baking Show" has lots to share with young chefs! Try out a few of his easy and clear recipes (and save a bite for me!).

### ***Stephen Biesty's Incredible Cross-Sections of Everything***

Stephen Biesty

It's so easy to get completely lost in one of Biesty's books—the detail is amazing! This is a good one to start with as it includes a bit of everything.

### ***Daughter of the Lightfooted People***

Belen Medina Cabot

Meet Lorena Ramirez—just 30 years old now and already the winner of many marathons, won while wearing rubber sandals and a traditional skirt.

### ***Transportation!***

Ian Fitzgerald

Are you ready to go on a great adventure this summer? Let's learn all about all the ways you can go. So full of amazing facts, timelines, 3D illustrations, etc.

### ***From Plant to Plate***

Darryl Gadzekpo

A terrific guide that is part gardening handbook, part cookbook. Learn how to plant and tend simple crops to then turn into delicious, homemade meals!

### ***An Anthology of Intriguing Animals***

Ben Hoare

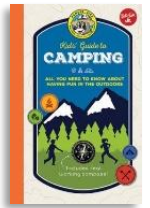
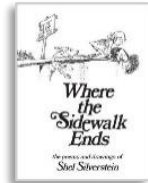
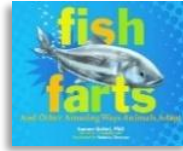
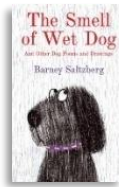
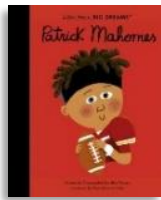
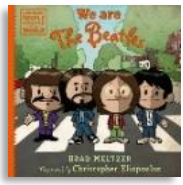
This is one of an assortment of new anthologies of many different topics from DK, a superior publisher of kids' nonfiction. Try this one about amazing animals!

### ***In Praise of Mystery***

Ada Limon

This is a poem now traveling through space on its way to Jupiter, engraved on the Europa Clipper. Read it here and marvel at the universe's mysteries!





### ***We Are the Beatles***

Brad Meltzer

One of the latest in Meltzer's popular biography series, meet the lads from Liverpool! Describes key childhood events in each life that shaped their future.

### ***Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations***

Jacqueline Mitton

While camping out this summer, be sure to grab a hand-held telescope to see the animals hidden amongst the stars.

### ***50 True Tales from Our Great National Parks***

Stephanie Pearson

Whether you're planning to visit any of our National Parks this summer or just hoping to someday, you'll love these wild stories!

### ***Patrick Mahomes***

Ma Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Even great athletes start life small, and this tells of the inspiring journey Patrick Mahomes from a child with promise to a world-class athlete.

### ***Saint Spotting: Or, How to Read a Church***

Christopher Raschka

Told from years of experience at his mother's side comes this lovely guide to understanding what parts of a church are and how to identify some saints.

### ***The Smell of a Wet Dog***

Barney Saltzberg

A collection of funny and relatable poems on 'man's best friend'; the amazing, the stinky, and everything in between! Cat-lovers will enjoy this, too!

### ***Fish Farts : and Other Amazing Ways Animals Adapt***

Joanne Settel

Your eyes will open wide (& you may also gag) at some of the weird but wonderful ways that animals have learned to adapt and survive.

### ***Where the Sidewalk Ends***

Shel Silverstein

The time has come to reacquaint children with this classic...it has dropped out of general knowledge and that is a crying, dirty shame. Must, must read!

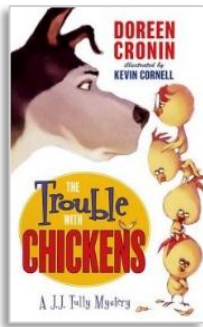
### ***The Kids' Guide to Camping***

Cherie Winner

Ready to hike a few trails, pitch a tent, go fishing, and make s'mores over an open campfire? Yay! This one is from "Ranger Rick" so it's a true authority on all the how's and why's of camping.

# YOUR REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Up to this page, everything in this guide has been a *suggestion* that we think you'll *really* like. *These* books 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!

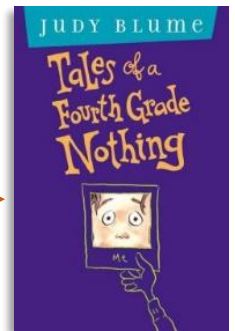


## Third Graders Will Read

← *The Trouble With Chickens* by Doreen Cronin

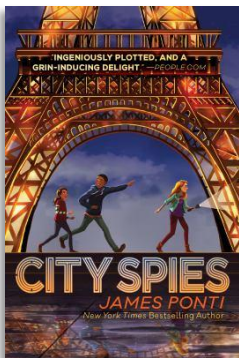
## Fourth Graders Will Read:

*Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume



## Fifth Graders Will Read:

← *City Spies* by James Ponti



**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!!**