

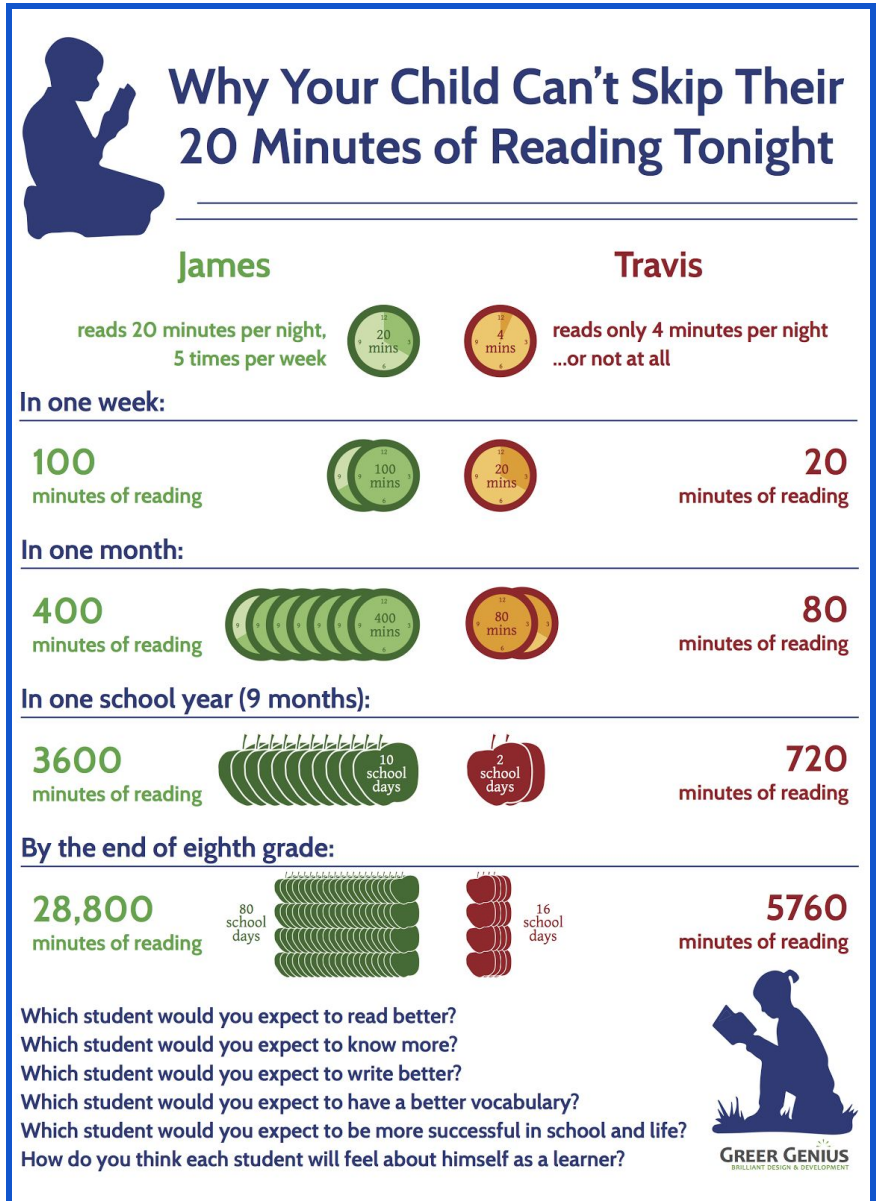
Summer 2017!

A great time to foster the love of reading!

Studies show what common sense tells us: the more kids read, the better they read and the more pleasure they get out of reading. And we see the direct impact on the accumulation of opportunities from daily reading as seen on the graphic to the right. Read on for more great reading advice from our in-house literacy development expert, Claudia McCrocklin.

So how do you encourage your child to read every day?

- Model by reading yourself.
- Discuss with your child what he is reading.
- Help your child find books about those things she is interested in.
- Continue to read aloud to older children even after they have learned to read themselves.
- Read to your child at his interest level, which may be well above his grade.
- Praise your child's efforts.
- Keep a journal for new vocabulary.
- Write in a daily journal.
- Make library or bookstore visits or trade books with a friend.
- Give books as presents.
- Join a book club or start your own book club.
- Volunteer to read to those who are unable.
- Start a personal library at home.
- Take your child different places to stimulate background knowledge and vocabulary.
- Tell stories to each other.



Now you have a plan and you know what you are going to do to fit reading in every day!

Here are suggestions for picking a right-fit book:

- Try to be as knowledgeable as possible about books by talking with a librarian or reading children's literature yourself.
- Series books are good because they bridge your child to the next book.
- It is important to intervene for the level of difficulty. A child should not struggle to read more than five words on a page or it is too difficult.
- Read the entire book and don't hesitate to re-read books.
- Monitor comprehension. Be active in this process with your child.
- Encourage your child to make a "movie in his/her mind."

Our school librarian, Lindsay Serrano, is a wonderful resource for helping find good-fit books as well! She may be reached at lserrano@stfrancisschool.org. Also, please visit the SFS Library Website for booklists and more at <https://sites.google.com/a/stfrancisschool.org/lserrano/>.

Read on to find specific summer reading assignments listed by grade level! For questions about summer reading selections or assignments, please contact the appropriate Department Chair listed below:

Misty Chanda
Lower School Language Arts Department Chair
mchanda@stfrancisschool.org

Patrick Donovan
Middle School Language Arts Department Chair
pdonovan@stfrancisschool.org

Have a wonderful summer!

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

Kindergarten Summer Reading 2017

Dear Parents,

As the long days of summer stretch before us, we encourage our students to read and explore books daily. Children love to hear adults read to them. It creates a special time between adults and children.

Our list can be used as a starting point with your soon-to-be-kindergartener and includes award-winning books and books recognized by teachers as meaningful reading for students of kindergarten age. Please read some of these great books to your children and check out the suggested parent book. We also encourage reading fairy tales, folk tales, and nursery rhymes. They are a rich and beneficial part of our literary heritage, and they enhance children's phonological awareness.

BOOK LIST

Here is a book we highly recommend for parents to read.

The Power of Play: Learning What Comes Naturally by David Elkind

* * * * *

Here are some of our favorites for reading aloud to your children.

- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *Little Oink and Little Pea* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *Why Do You Cry?* by Kate Klise
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- *Lyle and the Birthday Party* by Bernard Waber

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

1st Grade Summer Reading 2017

Dear Parents:

The first selection, *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever* by children's author Mem Fox, is for parents to read. We know that many of you already read aloud regularly; *Reading Magic* is full of suggestions to enrich your experiences. The book is inexpensive, short, and easy to read, and we think (actually, we know) that you'll enjoy it. After finishing *Reading Magic*, we're sure you'll understand why reading to your child over the summer is so important.

BOOK LIST

Reading for Parents:

Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever by Mem Fox

Fox extols the benefits of reading to young children — even newborns — and gives suggestions for helping children learn to read by themselves.

With your child, choose and read books this summer every single day. Some suggestions are...

- *Step-One* reading books
- the *Olivia* series by Ian Falconer
- poems by Shel Silverstein
- books by Joy Cowley
- animal stories
- *Purpicious* books by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann
- *Noodles* series by Scholastic
- *Biscuit* series by I Can Read

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

2nd Grade Summer Reading 2017

Dear Parents,

To stay prepared for 2nd grade, it's important that your child read regularly this summer — approximately four books a week. Of course, this number will vary depending upon the level and length of the books your child is reading.

It's quite normal for children entering 2nd grade to be reading at a variety of levels. For this reason, we don't require that specific books be read. This allows your child to customize reading to his or her interests and level. You aren't limited to our list of suggested authors, but please assist your child in selecting books that are appropriate.

AUTHOR/SERIES LIST

These authors are simply suggestions. There are many wonderful authors for this age group.

Fiction

- Marc Brown
- Jan Brett
- Tedd Arnold
- Dav Pilkey
- Tomie dePaola
- Leo Lionni
- Laura Numeroff
- David Shannon
- Rosemary Wells

Nonfiction

- Gail Gibbons
- Seymour Simon

Poetry

- Shel Silverstein
- Jack Prelutsky

Series

- *Henry and Mudge*
- *Poppleton*
- *Nate the Great*
- *Frog and Toad*
- *Mr. Putty and Tabby*
- *Junie B. Jones*
- *Magic Tree House*
- *Arthur*

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

3rd Grade Summer Reading 2017

Learning and reading researchers continually trumpet the fact that reading is the single most effective activity to prevent summer learning loss (a.k.a. the Summer Slump). Studies show that students who read as few as six books during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills achieved during the preceding school year, while students who don't read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

REQUIRED SUMMER READING and ASSIGNMENT

This summer you'll need to complete one of the Required Reading books and its assignment, as well as two Reader's Choice books. Your children may ask for help understanding the assignment, but they must draft and edit them independently.

The ideas and editing should reflect your child's abilities, not those of someone who helped the child.

Choose one of the following (books are listed in order of difficulty from least to most) and complete the assignment.

Julian's Glorious Summer by Ann Cameron

Julian didn't want to try to ride a bike because he was afraid of falling. All kids (and grown-ups) are afraid to try new things sometimes. *Your assignment is* to write a story about a person who overcomes a fear and learns to do something that at first might seem difficult or impossible. This could be a true story about yourself or a fictional story about a made-up character. Describe the character's feelings and how s/he overcomes the feelings to learn to do something new or to adjust to a new situation.

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies

This book tells the story of an exciting summer spent by loving but competitive pair of siblings, Evan and Jessie. They have a personal conflict which becomes a professional one as well, as they set out to outsell each other at each of their lemonade stands. *Your assignment is* to write a story about a time when you had a conflict. Have you ever felt competitive with someone close to you, like a sibling or a good friend? How did the conflict begin/happen? What did you do? How was it resolved?

Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl

Mr. Fox and his family live under a tree on a hill, along with his friends. In order to keep his family fed, he steals food each night from one of the three mean farmers who also live on the hill. The farmers seek revenge and make many plans to get rid of Mr. Fox. *Your assignment is* to write a letter either to Mr. Fox letting him know that you think what he is doing to the farmers is okay, OR, a letter to one of the farmers letting him know that Mr. Fox is committing a crime.

Your assignment should...

- be written in your own handwriting
- have your name and date at the top

Reader's Choice: Choose at least one additional chapter book and one non-fiction book to read this summer.

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

4th Grade Summer Reading 2017

Learning and reading researchers continually trumpet the fact that reading is the single most effective activity to prevent summer learning loss (a.k.a. the Summer Slump). Studies show that students who read as few as six books during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills achieved during the preceding school year, while students who don't read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

REQUIRED SUMMER READING and ASSIGNMENT

This summer you'll need to **complete one of the required reading books and the assignment as well as one reader's choice book**. You may ask for help understanding the assignment, but you must draft and edit it independently. The ideas and editing should reflect your abilities, not those of someone who helped you.

*Choose any of the following books and complete the assignment below. **You may choose a book that is not on the list, as long as it is a realistic fiction book about a child's summer adventure.***

Seaglass Summer by Anjali Banerjee

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

Fudge-a-Mania by Judy Blume

Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great by Judy Blume

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen

The Summer of the Gypsy Moths by Sarah Pennypacker

Aurora County All Stars by Deborah Wiles

Assignment:

Who doesn't love summer vacation? It's nearly three months of sleeping in, playing outside, drinking lemonade, and creating unforgettable memories. The characters in our summer reading all share their tales of unforgettable summers. Do you have an exciting, tragic, or hilarious story about your summer that you're eager to share with your classmates? If you're feeling imaginative, you can even stretch the truth and make your story more dramatic.

Your story should...

- be written in your own handwriting
- have your name and date at the top
- aim to be at least one hand-written page long

Reader's Choice: Read at least one additional book of your choosing: any genre, any topic. You will write and talk about your books when you return to school.

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

5th Grade Summer Reading 2017

Studies have shown that reading and writing over the summer can enhance or maintain a child's academic abilities going into the following school year. Without practice, there can actually be a lapse in some skills and information that is useful for the first month of school in the new year.

Children entering 5th grade are asked to **read two chapter books of high interest selected by the student**. Both novels should be full chapter books, not graphic novels. To find a good book, consult our school library's website for booklists <https://sites.google.com/a/stfrancisschool.org/lseerrano/> or check out other great lists like the *School Library Journal's* Best Books of 2016: <http://slj.com/bestof2016/middlegrade.php>

There is **one written assignment to complete** over the summer. In the first week of school, 5th graders will share a typed book report of one of the chapter books they have read over the summer. A book report should include the following format:

- Introduce the title of the novel, the author, and also the genre (realistic fiction, fantasy, mystery, sci-fi, romance) in your introductory sentence.
- Introduce the main characters and give a brief description of each character (age, interests, problems).
- Provide a summary of the plot in a few sentences. This should give some details of events that happened in the story.
- Then describe your favorite scene in the book and explain why it is your favorite scene.
- Finally, give a recommendation for who you think would enjoy this novel.

For the second novel, we will complete a short creative assignment in class that highlights the plot points or the characters from this novel in the first week of school. This will be a great time to share about what you loved in the other book you've read.

What to expect for the school year:

*We will begin reading the book *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio within the first weeks of school. Please refrain from reading this novel until we begin the school year. There are six other books that are required reading for 5th grade, and we will read these during the school year:

Amos Fortune, by Yates

Tuck Everlasting, by Babbitt

Dragonwings, by Yep

Out of the Dust, by Hesse

Don't You Know There's A War On?, by Avi

Number the Stars, by Lowry or *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, by Boyne

Get ready to read a ton! We have a 25-book challenge for 5th grade, and the first books to add to the list are your two choice books read over the summer.

The way to get started is to quit talking and start doing! - Walt Disney

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

6th Grade Summer Reading 2017

Dear 6th Grader:

Read a TON over the summer! Read things you love! Read, read, and read some more! You should read at least five or six books this summer. However, so that we can begin the year with some shared conversations about our reading, the **two required books to complete before the first day of school include:**

***Pax* by Sara Pennypacker** (dystopian fiction)

“Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter’s dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather’s house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn’t where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own.”

Any Biography, Autobiography, or Memoir of your choice.

If you need help choosing a book, consult one of the following lists:

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/reviews/category/book/genre/autobiography-160>

<https://middleschoolwriter.com/biography-autobiography-and-memoir-recommendations/>

ASSIGNMENT:

The novel we are reading this summer involves life-changing journeys. On the first day of school, bring an object with you that represents a journey you have taken at some point in your life. Also, bring a **written description of the journey** and an **explanation of why the object represents the journey to you**. We will share these journey artifacts and stories during our first week together in order to get to know each other better.

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

7th Grade Summer Reading 2017

You will read **two books for school this summer**. The first is Bernard Evslin's *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths*. The book is divided into four parts: The Gods, Nature Myths, Demigods and Fables. **During the summer, please read only The Gods and Nature Myths sections.** Below you'll find some activities to do after reading the Gods section of the book.

Part I: Gods Play

After reading about the Greek gods (pp. 3-52), choose three gods and write a short play (skit) in which the three gods interact. The idea here is to reflect the personality and concerns of the three gods in the dialogue that you create for them. Type out your short play using the format traditionally used for drama (see the example below):

Poseidon: I ruled the seas long before you ever came on the scene, young lady, and the manner of my . . . well, rebirth . . . was no more strange than your own advent. Seems to me you're nothing but the product of a terrible headache.

Athena: Oh really, is that so? Be quiet, old sea spray. Or should I say, vomit stain? (*Athene turns her back on Poseidon*)

Apollo: Easy, you two. Let's not get over emotional. (*Apollo looks nervous and waves his hands in the air*)

Poseidon: Your beloved people, those silly Athenians will drown when I unleash my wrath. What do you have to say to that, Athena?

Athena: You don't scare me or them. God of the sea? Hardly. You're nothing but a drip, Poseidon. Thanks to me, the Athenians have everything they need: abundant grain, walls of stone, and most important, the sails to ride along your tiny, harmless waves. Go tend to your kraken, old man, you don't frighten me in the least.

Do you get the picture? The Greek gods, far from ideal role models, were much like humans and not above acting like people in soap operas or so-called reality shows. Write in this vein, trying to be as imaginative as possible while staying true to the essence of these mythological gods. The short play should be no more than two typed pages. Note both that there is a gap (space) between the characters' (gods') dialogue and that stage directions are italicized.

PART II: Read *The Odyssey*, as retold by Geraldine McCaughrean

Your second book, a retelling of Odysseus' wanderings, is a heroic tale in the truest sense of the word. It captures all the drama and bloodcurdling action of the original work, while making the story accessible to young people in language that is still vigorous and expressive. Odysseus is a commanding figure, a bold leader, able to outwit the strongest monsters, yet so weak he cowers in Calypso's chamber. Readers can follow Odysseus' encounters with Circe, the Lotus-eaters, Poseidon, and Calypso, among others. Read *The Odyssey* and come prepared to work with the epic in class during the first few weeks of school.

See you on the first day of school. Enjoy your summer vacation!

Summer 2017!
A great time to foster the love of reading!

8th Grade Summer Reading 2017

Choose **one book** from the NPR 100 Best-Ever Teen Novels. You can access the list via this link:
<http://www.npr.org/2012/08/07/157795366/your-favorites-100-best-ever-teen-novels>

This list includes a wide variety of books to appeal to the interests and reading levels of many students. Parents are encouraged to review book selections with their children in order to help them make appropriate choices. (Please skip the following books on this list: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck. We will be reading these as a class selections later in the year.)

Complete the following assignment: Write a letter (at least one page) from the point of view of one of the characters to someone else in the book, written after the story has ended. Make sure to use the format of a letter and include a greeting and a signature. You can write the letter however you want, as long as it shows your understanding of the story and ideas about the character. If you're not sure what to write about, you might want to include the following:

- a. your character's hopes and fears for him/herself
- b. your character's hopes, fears, or questions for the
- c. person s/he's writing to
- d. questions your character still wonders about
- e. your character's thoughts on what s/he learned or accomplished in the book
- f. his/her plans for the future

Choose one other free choice book. You are welcome to use the NPR list as a guide if you see another book that looks interesting. But the main guide regarding this second selection is that YOU choose it based on your own personal interest. *Be prepared to discuss and share your reading selection - the first writing assignment of the year will focus on this work.*