



# **2023 Summer Reading List**

## **First Presbyterian Day School**

Dear Lower School Parents,

The purpose of our Elementary Summer Reading Program is to nurture the habit of reading and to develop secure skills by engaging in daily reading opportunities. Strong reading skills help students in every academic area and open them up to a lifetime love of learning. Nothing can take the place of reading when it comes to building vocabulary, language, comprehension, and writing skills. All children enjoy cuddling up to read a good book, especially when they've found a book they love!

Parents, please make sure to monitor time and activities on digital devices this summer to be sure programs are appropriate and your child is safe. Research states that a child who is read to or reads 20 minutes a day is more successful in academics. Children who create things develop stronger problem-solving skills. Reading and creating – what a wonderful combination for summer fun!

We suggest giving your child as many reading opportunities as possible – to be read to, to read aloud, to read to themselves, and to read for an audience such as siblings, family, or grandparents. Help your child find things to read that interest them. As you travel and vacation, read signs, trucks, and billboards.

Thank you for helping nurture a love for reading throughout the summer, beyond just completing required assignments. Let's all work together as we watch their love for reading grow!

Happy reading! We can't wait to see you back on campus very soon!

Mrs. Shannon Bryant

# Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

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(student name)

(parent signature)

(date)

**The following books should NOT be read during the summer** because we will read these together during the school year:

*Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone

*Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare

*The Green Ember* by S. D. Smith

*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

*Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman* by Dorothy Sterling

**We will have a book report project each quarter as listed below. It might be helpful for you to know the quarter in which each project will be assigned.**

Quarter 1- Select a new biography for Pumpkin Biography

Quarter 2- Select a new fiction book to write a Letter to the Author

Quarter 3- Select a new fiction book [with fictional character] for Wax Museum

Quarter 4- Select a Newbery Award Winning Book for Power Point Presentation

**Rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders are required to read three different books during the summer.**

1. **Frindle**

**Andrew Clements**

(title)

(author)

*Frindle* will be assessed when students return to school in the fall. We will complete several activities as a review and take a test during the first few weeks of school.

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

(title)

(author)

Choose an upper elementary chapter book to read. You will take an AR test on this book this summer (from home) or during the first full week of school in the fall. The AR link can be found at <https://global-zone20.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/55535>.

Students will use their username and password from fourth grade. If you are new to FPD, please email [lyn.brumbelow@fpdmacon.org](mailto:lyn.brumbelow@fpdmacon.org) for log-in assistance.

**3.**

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(title)

(author)

Choose another upper elementary chapter book to read. Prepare a Book Share (like a show-and-tell for books) to be presented during the first two weeks of school. Choose an item represented in the book and bring it in to show the class. Students should be prepared to briefly tell the story and explain how the object is related to the book and why it is important in the story.

**\*Please fill out this page completely and turn it in to your Reading teacher on the first day of school.**

We encourage you to monitor your child's book selections so they will be a good fit for your child and your family. The following books have been suggested by fifth graders or other "experts" in children's literature, but we cannot be certain that the content and reading level will suit your child. The following links might be helpful if you have questions about a book your child wants to read.

[http://www.pluggedin.com/book-review/?p=08%3C%3D20\\$%3Cs%3Dalias&%3Co=asc](http://www.pluggedin.com/book-review/?p=08%3C%3D20$%3Cs%3Dalias&%3Co=asc)

<http://ccbreview.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/>

**(Please do not read a book that you read in previous grades.)**

Some popular suggestions for **books #2 and #3** are listed below:

## Fiction

<i>A Nest for Celeste, A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home</i> by Henry Cole	<i>Another Quest for Celeste, A Story About Abe Lincoln, Honesty, and the Power of Friendship</i> by Henry Cole
<i>Brambleheart, A Story About Finding Treasure and the Unexpected Magic of Friendship</i> by Henry Cole	<i>Bayberry Island, An Adventure About Friendship and the Journey Home</i> by H. Cole
<i>The Somewhat True Adventures of Sammy Shine</i> by Henry Cole	<i>A Week in the Woods</i> by Andrew Clements
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis	<i>Call it Courage</i> by Armstrong Sperry
<i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan	<i>Lunch Money</i> by Andrew Clements (if not read for last year's summer reading option)
<i>The One and Only Ivan</i> by Katherine Applegate (if not read for last year's summer reading option)	<i>Potterwookiee</i> by Obert Skye
<i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>Twenty-One Balloons</i> by William Pene Dubois
<i>Walk Two Moons</i> by Sharon Creech	<i>When You Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead
<i>My Own Lighting</i> by Lauren Wolk	<i>Odder</i> by Katherine Applegate

## Historical Fiction

<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> by Gennifer Choldenko	<i>Journey to America</i> by Sonia Levitin
<i>Letters from Rifka</i> by Karen Hesse	<i>Freewater</i> by Amina Luqman-Dawson

## Non-Fiction

<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i> by James L. Swanson	<i>Down to the Last Out</i> by Walter Dean Myers
<i>Heaven is for Real</i> by Todd Burpo	<i>Stolen into Slavery-The True Story of Solomon Northup, Free Black Man</i> by Judith and Dennis Fradin
<i>War Horse</i> by Michael Morpurgo	

## Books About Animals

<i>Because of Winn Dixie</i> by Kate DiCamillo (if not read for last year's summer reading option)	<i>My Life in Dog Years</i> by Gary Paulsen
<i>Shadow</i> by Michael Morpurgo	<i>Summer of the Monkeys</i> by Wilson Rawls
<i>Old Yeller</i> by Fred Gipson	<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls

## Popular Series

**\*\*\*Be sure that the book you choose from a series is a 5.0 grade level or above OR worth at least 3 AR points. \*\*\***

<i>Crispin Trilogy</i> (should be read in order) by Avi	<i>Great Illustrated Classics</i>
<i>Hatchet</i> by Gary Paulsen (if not read for last year's summer reading option)	<i>Harry Potter</i> by J. K. Rowling
<i>I Survived ...</i> series by Lauren Tarshis	<i>The Kane Chronicles</i> by Rick Riordan
<i>The Kingdom Keepers</i> by Ridley Pearson	<i>Percy Jackson</i> series by Rick Riordan
<i>Storm Runners</i> by Roland Smith	<i>The Secret Series</i> by Pseudonymous Bosch
<i>The Series of Unfortunate Events</i> by Lemony Snicket & Brett Helquist	<i>Wingfeather</i> by Andrew Peterson
<i>Artemis Fowl</i> by Eoin Colfer	<i>Ark, the Reed and the Fire Cloud (The Amazing Tales of Max and Liz)</i> by Jenny Cote
<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> by Jeff Kinney	<i>Princess Academy</i> by Shannon Hale
<i>Paper Magician</i> by Charlie Holmberg	<i>Vanderbeekers</i> by Karina Yan Glaser
<i>The Warrior Cat Series</i> by Erin Hunter	<i>City Spies Series</i> by James Ponti

## Popular Authors

Beverly Cleary	Andrew Clements	Gary Paulsen
Rick Riordan		

## Recommended for *GIRLS* by Fifth Graders

<i>Confetti Girl</i> by Diana Lopez	<i>Eight Keys</i> by Suzanne LaFleur
<i>Ella Enchanted</i> by Gail Carson Levine	<i>Half Upon a Time</i> by James Riley
<i>Princess Academy</i> by Shannon Hale	<i>Socks</i> by Beverly Cleary

## Recommended for *BOYS* by Fifth Graders

<i>Brian's Winter</i> by Gary Paulsen	<i>Force Out</i> by Tim Green
<i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar	<i>Robin Hood</i> (select an age appropriate version)
<i>The Name of This Book is Secret</i> by Pseudonymous Bosch	<i>The Swiss Family Robinson</i> (select an age-appropriate version)
<i>Hero 2 Doors Down</i> by Sharon Robinson	

**Some final thoughts...**

**Our co-curricular teachers highly recommend:**

Faith-based books (Bible stories, biographies of missionaries, books about Christian virtues, Christian fiction chapter books, etc.)
<i>The Art of Miss Chew</i> and other titles by Patricia Polacco
<i>The Boy Who Drew Birds, a Story of John James Audubon</i> (art and science) by Jacqueline Davies
<i>Vincent van Gogh and the Colors of the Wind</i> by Chiara Lossani
<i>Through Georgia's Eyes</i> by Rachel /Victoria Rodriguez
The many books about artists by Laurence Anholt
Three series by Mike Venezia called <i>Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists</i> ; <i>Getting to Know the World's Greatest Composers</i> ; and <i>Getting to Know the World's Greatest Inventors and Scientists</i>
Any age-appropriate biographies
Any age-appropriate non-fiction books about science, history, geography, and other countries and their cultures
Spanish or bilingual books
Poetry books (Children's favorites are Silverstein, Prelutsky, Lansky, Nesbitt, and Florian.)
Fables, folk tales, tall tales, and fairy tales
Books to tie in with summer vacations (seashells, oceans, mountains, biking, swimming, etc.)
Consider subscribing to a children's magazine – <i>Zoobooks</i> , <i>National Geographic for Little Kids</i> (for younger children), <i>National Geographic for Kids</i> (for upper elementary), or <i>Sports Illustrated for Kids</i> .

**Happy reading! Summer is such a wonderful time to share the joy of reading for pleasure while keeping your children's reading skills sharp!**