

# 2023 Summer Reading

We are pleased to announce the Summer Reading Requirement for the 2023 - 2024 academic year.

The grade level indicated is for the grade the student will be entering in September.

All students must read the book in their level that is marked by an asterisk (\*).

They must also read any two additional books from their grade level for a total of three books.

Books must be chosen from the student's grade level only.

## Grade Five

*\*Hatchet*, Paulsen. This Newberry Honor book tells the story of Brian Robeson, who must learn to survive on his own following a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness.

*The Acorn People*, Jones. Five severely handicapped boys are determined to overcome their limitations at summer camp.

*The Giver*, Lowry. Jonas wonders why he was chosen to receive special training from The Giver in a world where there is no war, fear, or pain.

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, DiCamillo. The tale of a china rabbit who goes on an amazing journey and as a result, learns to love.

*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, Lord. In 1947, Shirley Temple Wong encounters a strange, new society as she arrives in America and falls in love with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

## Grade Six

*\*The Breadwinner*, Ellis. Set in the early years of the Taliban regime, this topical novel explores the harsh realities of life for girls and women in modern-day Afghanistan.

*The Bronze Bow*, Spear. Set in Galilee in the time of Jesus, this Newberry Award-winning novel tells the story of a young Jewish rebel who is won over to the gentle teachings of Jesus.

*The Cay*, Taylor. A boy's racial antagonisms diminish when he is stranded on a coral island with a black man.

*Homecoming*, Voigt. Abandoned by her mother, Dicey and her brothers and sisters are left destitute, wanting to find one adult whom they can trust to hold their family together.

*A Wrinkle in Time*, L'engle. This 1963 Newbery Medal winner combines theology, fantasy, and science. It is the story of travel through space and time to battle a cosmic evil.

## Grade Seven

*\*The Port Chicago 50*, Sheinkin. This is a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II, and a nuanced look at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they lacked the most basic rights.

*That Was Then, This Is Now*, Hinton. This novel paints a richly textured portrait of two boys at a crossroads in their future.

*The Crossover*, Alexander. This story, told entirely in verse, follows twin brothers that share a love for basketball, but find themselves drifting apart as they head into their junior high school years.

*The War that Saved My Life*, Bradley. Ada discovers there are worse things than bombs after she escapes her Mam's cruelty during a children's evacuation of World War II London.

*Counting by 7s*, Sloan. Willow Chance is a twelve-year old genius who finds it comforting to count by 7s. This intensely moving middle grade novel is about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

## Grade Eight

*\*The Book Thief*, Zusak. This wonderful novel is set in Germany during World War II and features a daring young German girl who does not allow the book burnings by the Nazis to quench her thirst for knowledge and love of reading.

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Albom. Through Eddie, a wounded war veteran, this novel explores the unexpected connections in our lives and the idea that heaven is more than a place; it's an answer.

*The Pearl*, Steinbeck. In this novella, Kino, a poor Mexican pearl diver, finds a valuable pearl. Kino believes that this wealth will lead to a life of luxury for himself and his family, but instead suffers a series of misfortunes.

*The Alchemist*, Coelho. This enchanting novel depicts the journey of a shepherd boy named Santiago as he travels from Spain to Egypt in search of treasure buried in the Pyramids. He eventually learns that real riches are waiting for him in an unexpected place.

*The Chosen*, Potek. A story of the friendship that develops between two Jewish boys in New York City.