

# SUMMER READING

As **Fourth Grade** comes to a close, we can't stress enough the importance of summer reading. As Charlotte Mason says, "It is in the lap of the parent that a child first explores the universe of the printed page. Children of all ages must be immersed in the world of literature." -*When Children Love to Learn*

Today, parents and children have a multitude of enticements competing for their attention. All too often, children plead for access to the digital market with its adrenal boosting sights and sounds. The challenge is guiding children to recognizing the life-giving beauty of a story. In order to cultivate character, build background knowledge, and nurture a love of reading, we must spend time in rich literature. Reading to and with your child, and listening to them read a book to you, creates the perfect pathway to enter the world of living books.

Consider what you wish to instill in your child this summer. What habits of the good life do you wish to practice? What habits of thinking and acting will influence a summer of wonder? What ideas will be cultivated through the books they read? How will you build a desire to escape into a book and relish its mysteries and surprises?

Our choices change who we are and how we live. How we spend our time influences our character. Open the books, read beyond just this list, and let us give to our children one of the best gifts they could receive—time spent with you, cultivating a life-long love of reading.

## Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Graders: Summer Reading List

Please have your child read widely and often both with you and independently! Please read a **minimum of two fiction books** from the following list so your incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grader will be prepared for the class activities in August. The non-fiction books are optional and only the beginning of what you can read.

<b>Fiction: (Choose a minimum of two)</b> <i>Snow Treasure</i> by Marie McSwigan <i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry <i>Bud Not Buddy</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis <i>Prince Caspian</i> by C. S. Lewis <i>Mr. Lincoln's Drummer</i> by G. Clifton Wisler	<b>Non-Fiction:</b> plants, chemistry, astronomy, Renaissance, Russia, Westward Expansion, the Civil War
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"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."

— **Maya Angelou**

