

Suggested Summer Reading

Summer is a season for students to become better readers... or forget what they learned during the school year. Research confirms that students who don't read four or more age-appropriate books over the summer typically score lower or stagnate on reading comprehension tests when they return to school.

This is a short list of suggestions for reading this summer. These books were chosen with the focus of motivating a student to read. Not every book is right for every family; please preview first. Listening to books is reading too! Read the books with your child or check out audio books at the library or download books from itunes for the summer car trips.

Summer Reading is Killing Me! by Jon Scieszka gr.1-4

At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, This time, characters from stories come alive, creating all kinds of crazy mischief in the process. Check out more Time Warp Trio like **Knights of the Kitchen Table**, and **It's Greek to Me**

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron gr.k-4

Julian's stories are magnificent, but they aren't always the truth, and they cause him some trouble. This is a funny warm chapter book about a "creative" kid and a loving family. This is the first in a popular series about Julian and his family This is one of my favorite read alouds for all ages!

A Mouse Called Wolf by Dick King-Smith gr. k-4

Wolf is such a minuscule mouse that his mother decides to give him a big name. The family mouse hole is just behind the leg of a grand piano played twice a day by an elderly woman. Wolf loves the music and, to the delight of Mrs. Honeybee and the bemusement of his mother, he becomes the first singing mouse. Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse is a character you instantly love. If you liked the movie **Babe** this author wrote the book on which the movie was based. Check out other great characters in books by this author

The Great Horned Spoon by Sid Fleishman gr.4-8

Brimming with riveting adventure, the story is set during the Gold Rush. The fast-moving plot follows the high spirited young Jack and his aunt's faithful butler, Praiseworthy, as they set out to strike it rich in order to support the financially strapped and beloved Aunt Arabella. As Jack and the loyal butler travel by sea and land, the pair meet a series of memorable characters. Great background information for learning about California history.

The Red Pyramid (Kane Chronicles Series #1) by Rick Riordan gr. 4-8

Siblings Carter and Sadie have been living apart since their mother's mysterious death. On Christmas Eve, archeologist Julius Kane and son Carter, 14, show up in England for one of their two days a year with Sadie. Julius ushers his children to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone, unleashing five Egyptian gods and causing his own disappearance. The author of the Percy Jackson series (arguably the number one series for girls and boys at St. Cecilia's for the past two years!) has just released the first book in a new series.

Rules by Cynthia Lord gr. 4-8

Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him. This sensitive story is about being different, feeling different, and finding acceptance.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli gr. 4-8

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. This sweet romance and unusual character is a favorite of the St. Cecilia girls. Also check out the sequel **Love, Stargirl**.

The Thief Lord by Cornila Funke gr. 4-8

After their mother dies, 12-year-old Prosper and his brother, Bo, five, flee from Hamburg to Venice (an awful aunt plans to adopt only Bo). They live in an abandoned movie theater with several other street children under the care of the Thief Lord, a cocky youth who claims to rob "the city's most elegant houses." A mysterious man hires the Thief Lord to steal a wooden wing, which the kids later learn has broken off a long-lost merry-go-round said to make "adults out of children and children out of adults,"

39 Clues gr.4-8 various authors

In the series, the fictitious Cahill family has influenced civilization more than any other family in the world. Almost every famous historical figure that has ever lived belongs to it: leaders, scientists, artists and athletes. The fictional secret to the family's power lies in the 39 clues, which are ingredients, like silk and tungsten, that add up to a mysterious chemical compound that will somehow empower its owner to be the most powerful human being on the planet. **Storm Warning**, by Linda Sue Park is the ninth book in the best-selling 39 Clues series, The tenth and final book, which is called **Into the Gauntlet** is due out on August 31, 2010.

The Underland Chronicles gr.4-8 by Suzanne Collins

When 11-year-old Gregor follows his little sister through a grate in the laundry room of his New York City apartment building, he hurtles through dark Underland beneath the city. There, humans live uneasily beside giant spiders, bats, cockroaches, and rats -- but the fragile peace is about to fall apart. Rich in suspense and brimming with adventure, I can't keep this five book series in stock at St. Cecilia's, very fast paced read!

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart gr.4-8

Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children-two boys and two girls-succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. My daughter and I just finished a read aloud with this one and we are planning to start the next in the series right away. Loads of fun and younger students might enjoy it more as a read aloud because of the challenging vocabulary. Great for students all the way to 8th grade.

A Boy at War by Harry Mazer Gr 4-8-

Adam Pelko has lived for only two weeks in Honolulu, where his father is an officer assigned to the USS Arizona in nearby Pearl Harbor. When he befriends Davi Mori, a high school classmate whose parents are Japanese, Adam's rigid father forbids him to associate with Davi, fearing that the anti-Japanese sentiment so rampant on the island will tarnish the Pelko family and Lieutenant Pelko's navy

career. When his father is called back to the ship unexpectedly, Adam slips away from his house the following morning-December 7, 1941. This is a favorite of boys here at St. Cecilia's Check out some of his other books **Heros Don't Run** and **A Boy No More.**

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson gr. 6-8

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel.

Also by Anderson **Fever 1793.** In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins gr.7-8

Katniss is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother and younger sister in the poorest district of Panem, the remains of what used be the United States. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games." The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed. When Kat's sister is chosen by lottery, Kat steps up to go in her place.

This book is so well paced I could not put it down! It is definitely for older students because of the violent subject matter but also great moral theme, preview first. **Catching Fire** is equally suspenseful. The last book in the series, **Mockingjay**, is due out in August.

Many students here love to read non fiction

Books like **Ripley's Believe it or Not;** **Scholastic World Record** books , Almanacs and **DK Eyewitness** books all are huge favorites with St. Cecilia students. Many students enjoy reading facts about animals, science, and sports as well Great for a reluctant reader! Here are a couple more ideas for fun non-fiction.

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh

This behind-the-scenes look at the first Apollo moon landing has the feel of a public television documentary in its breadth and detail." Catherine Thimmesh tells us the stories of the 400,000 people it took to make...that 'one giant leap'...Their collective devotion to an exciting goal comes across strongly."

The Daring Book for Girls by Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz

The manual for everything that girls need to know—and that doesn't mean sewing buttonholes! Whether it's female heroes in history, secret note-passing skills, science projects, friendship bracelets, double dutch, cats cradle, this book is every girl's invitation to adventure.

The Dangerous Book for Boys by Conn and Hal Iggulden

Simple instructions for coin tricks and paper airplanes alternate with excerpts from history such as Famous Battles and facts about ancient wonders of the world and astronomy. A section on stickball, for instance, includes advice to possibly flee the vicinity in the event of a broken window.

We Are The Ship: The Story of the Negro Baseball League by Nelson Kadir

The early 1900's Negro Baseball League consisted of players who made great sacrifices and showed tremendous courage in the face of adversity, all for the sake of a game they loved.

Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine by Mel Boring and Leslie Dendy Gr. 5-8

.From hundreds of examples gathered during a decade of research, the authors offer 10 enthralling case studies of scientists from the past several centuries who became their own test subjects--with occasionally fatal results. The accounts are lively, compelling, and not always for the squeamish

Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys by Jon Scieszka gr. 5-8

This is a diverse and fast-paced anthology of scribblings and stories from authors and illustrators that talk about being a guy. Among them are the importance of fathers, what it is to become a "real" man, how childhood reading predicted and shaped an author's future, and adventures and misadventures in sports.

This is a great father/ son read aloud as well as motivating for a reluctant reader! Caution; not all stories will be right for all families, please preview first.

(Check out this author's website www.guysread.com to get more ideas for encouraging boys to keep reading)

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women

by Catherine Thimmesh gr. 5-8

A collective biography of women and girls who changed the world with their inventions. The book also encourages young women to start inventing themselves and offers a list of organizations with postal and Internet addresses to help them get started

Summer Classics

We have some amazing readers here at St. Cecilia's! Some students might want to challenge themselves and try a classic this summer. Classics are great to read with your son or daughter! Some suggestions for older students would be **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austin (the real one not the new Zombie one!). **Adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain, **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Arthur Conan Doyle, **Gone With the Wind** by Margaret Mitchell, **Lord of the Flies** by William Golding, **Moby Dick** by Herman Melville, **Animal Farm** by George Orwell, **Grapes of Wrath** by John Steinbeck, **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelly and even **Romeo and Juliet** or **Midsummer Night's Dream** by William Shakespeare.

Younger students at St. Cecilia's seem to really enjoy **The Great Illustrated Classics** series. What's missing is all the beautiful prose of the originals but they can still enjoy some of the great plots of classic literature.

Set A World Record for Summer Reading

Take the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge

The Scholastic Summer Challenge is a free, Web-based program that helps kids find great books and provides a fun, multimedia platform for them to discover new authors, talk about books with other kids, and keep motivated to read all summer long.

This year's Summer Challenge unites students and schools to read in an attempt to set a new world record for summer reading. Go to www.scholastic.com/summer.

