Saint Ann's School Library, 2013

Suggested Summer Reading List
for students entering fifth & sixth grades

Fiction

**KEY**

♀ - mystery; ♥ - romantic; 🦖 - scary/creepy; 🌌 - sci fi;
♀ - sports; ☥ - spies; ☞ - artsy; 🎥 - there’s a movie based on the book;
♀ - spooky; ☞ - promotes peace; ☛ - historical fiction; ☜ - sad;
♀ - violent; ⚡ - bloody; ☼ - funny; ☞ - fantasy; ☛ - contemporary realistic

Alcott, Louisa May. **Little Women.** In picturesque nineteenth-century New England, tomboyish Jo, beautiful Meg, fragile Beth, and romantic Amy come of age while their father is off to war. A classic.

[Image: Little Women book cover]

Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Ivan.** “I am Ivan. I am a gorilla. It’s not as easy as it looks.” Thus begins this year’s Newbery Medal winner, the tale of Ivan, a gorilla who lives in a display in a mall, and his friendships with an elderly elephant, a stray dog, and the mall janitor’s kid. Ivan uses art to try to communicate with humans. Emotional, intense, funny—and inspired by a true story.

[Image: The One and Only Ivan book cover]

Balliet, Blue. **Hold Fast.** On a freezing winter day, in the most desolate neighborhood you can imagine, a man is hit by a truck—and vanishes. That’s the mysterious opening of this novel of homelessness, loss and hope, featuring an appealing, resilient main character named Early Pearl. By the author of **Chasing Vermeer.**

[Image: Hold Fast book cover]

Banerjee, Anjali. **Seaglass Summer.** Do you love animals? Ever wondered what it would be like to be a vet? If so, read this funny, heartwarming book about 11-year-old Poppy, who longs to be a vet but has never had a pet. While her parents are in India for a month, she goes to live with her Uncle Sanjay, who’s a vet (despite his own parents’ disapproval), and experiences the sad, happy and gross parts of caring for animals.

[Image: Seaglass Summer book cover]

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**HUGE Summer Reading News**

Thanks to the Saint Ann’s Digital Library, students can now check out e-books **all summer long**! Access the digital library at: saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com. The easiest way to read our e-books is with a Kindle or Kindle app (downloadable for free to phones, iPads, and computers).

**Logging In:** Students need a username and PIN to browse the collection and download books. They can easily generate their own. For instructions and other digital library tips, see the last page of this list.

Books on this list that are available through the digital library are shaded—the way this box is.
Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. A quick and entertaining read. Decide which you like better—the book or the movie. See how the filmmakers changed the ending, changed the shoes, and left out some quirky characters. Then, try one of the sequels. 😊

Boyce, Frank Cottrel. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again*. The original *Chitty Chitty* was written by Ian Fleming (yes, the James Bond creator!). In this authorized sequel, by the author of *Millions*, a modern family finds an old engine and puts it into a broken-down van. Suddenly the van has a mind of its own and wild adventure ensues! 😊 (Remember: Shading means a title is available as an e-book!)

Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece*. An artistic beetle who craves adventure teams up with a lonely 11-year-old boy. Together, they work to track down the thief who has stolen a priceless Albrecht Durer print from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. If you like *Masterpiece*, try *Shakespeare’s Secret*, another mystery by the same author. 📚 😊

Christie, Agatha. *Crooked House*. If you enjoyed *And Then There Were None*, you’ll love this fantastic Christie classic also based on a nursery rhyme. The Leonides family all live together in a little crooked house (actually a mansion). But which one of them poisoned the patriarch? This was one of Christie’s own favorites. Beware: the ending is truly shocking. 🗿

DeTerlizzi, Tony. *The Search for WondLa*. Eva Nine has grown up in an underground compound with a motherly robot as her only companion. When her home is destroyed, she sets out in search of other humans. A fantastic cross between *WALL-E* and *The Wizard of Oz*, whimsically illustrated. Sequel: *A Hero for WondLa*. 📚 😊

Fforde, Jasper. *The Last Dragonslayer*. Imagine a magical world where the magic is slowly draining away. Nobody’s quite sure why, but it probably has something to do with the declining dragon population. Whatever the reason, life is tough for a 15-year-old named Jennifer Strange, manager of an employment agency for magicians (she took over when her boss disappeared). And, though she doesn’t know it yet, it’s about to get a lot tougher. A funny, unique fantasy-mystery. 😊

Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*. While attending a strict school for princesses in training, Miri uncovers secrets about her past and discovers special talents. A perfect fantasy—a cut far above the usual princess fare. 😊 😍

Hiaasen, Carl. *Chomp*. The high-maintenance star of a reality TV show called “Expedition Survival” disappears while filming an episode in the Florida Everglades. The animals for the show come from the wildlife refuge run by Wahoo Crane's family, so Wahoo and classmate Tuna Gordon set out to find him—while avoiding Tuna’s gun-happy father. Another hilarious eco-mystery from the author of *Hoot, Flush*, and *Scat*. *(They’re also lots of fun and, like Chomp, are available for download from our digital library. Read one right now!)* 😊

Jacobson, Jennifer. *Small as an Elephant*. Abandoned by his mentally ill mother in the wilderness of Maine, Jack tries to make his way back to Boston before anyone figures out what is going on. His only company is a small toy elephant—luckily Jack loves elephants. 🦀
Juster, Norton. **The Phantom Tollbooth.** “It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time,” says Milo, the main character. He is so wrong. If you haven’t read this one-of-a-kind book, do it this summer. A classic guaranteed to keep you out of the doldrums. 🌟

Knowles, Jo. **See You at Harry’s.** Tragedy strikes the family. How does Fern handle the grief and guilt? Tragic, yet hopeful and full of heart. A favorite of the Saint Ann’s Mock Newbery Committee. (In case you’re wondering, Harry’s is a diner.) 🍔❤️

Konigsberg, E.L. **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.** Claudia runs away from her annoying Connecticut life, taking her little brother with her. They secretly spend their days and nights in the Metropolitan Museum of Art—and get involved in a mystery that could change the face of art history. If you haven’t read this kids’ classic, do so immediately. If you have read it, try **A View from Saturday,** another book by the same wonderful author, who died this year at the age of 83. 🎠️❤️️

Lerangis, Peter. **The Colossus Rises.** Jack is on his way to a math test when he collapses. He comes to on an island where he learns that he must seek seven secret loculi located within the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (quick: name them!). If he doesn’t find them—yes—the world will end. Heart-racing adventure featuring likable characters and cool facts about ancient civilizations. The first of a planned seven-part series. 😊

Lowry, Lois. **Son.** The much-anticipated finale to the classic Giver series, **Son** tells the story of Claire, a young woman determined to find the boy she gave birth to—and was supposed to forget. Skillfully weaving together the storylines of **The Giver, Gathering Blue,** and **Messenger** (which are available through our digital library), **Son** delivers a satisfying concluding struggle between good and evil. ❤️

Lu, Marie. **Legend.** In a dark future where North America has split into two warring nations, 15-year-old Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant teen soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy. **Sequel: Prodigy. Warning: Contains real violence. ⚠️❤️

Lupica, Mike. **The Underdogs.** Will sees it in his head every time he closes his eyes: he fumbles the ball in the final play, and his football team loses the championship to the school from the rich town across the river. Now, a new school year is about to start, and budget cuts may force Will’s school to cancel the football season. A great, suspenseful sports story with an endearing main character. The author is a veteran newspaper sports writer, so he gets all the details right. 🏈

Mass, Wendy. **Every Soul a Star.** It’s the rarest of events: a total eclipse of the sun. Thousands of people have gathered to watch one at a remote campground. For three of them—popular Bree, awkward Jack, and nature-girl Ally—life is about to change forever. A compelling, real-seeming story, with cool scientific facts about the sun and stars woven throughout. 🌞 Additional titles by this author available from the Saint Ann’s Digital Library: **Leap Day** and **A Mango Shaped Space.**

McMann, Lisa. **The Unwanteds.** On the day of the Purge in the totalitarian world of Quill, 13-year-olds are sorted into three categories: Wanted (they attend college), Necessary (they tend the land), or Unwanted (they’re purged by execution). Without a good-bye from his identical twin brother (who is “Wanted”), Alex Stowe boards a bus to travel to the Death Farm. But is it really a death farm? Expect magic. **Sequel: Island of Silence** 🌟
Meloy, Maile. The Apothecary. Alchemy and magic meet the Cold War in this mystery set in the 1950s. Janie’s parents are victims of the Hollywood blacklist, so the family leaves sunny California for bleak London. There, Janie meets a spy-obsessed son of an apothecary—and the game (saving the world) is afoot. Brand New Sequel: The Apprentices 📚 🛍

Myers, Walter Dean. Game. Drew is counting on basketball to get him into college and out of the poor neighborhood where he lives. When his coach brings in two white players (Drew is African-American) and puts them in positions that clearly threaten his game, Drew struggles to stay cool. Intense and a bit grown-up, but great. ⚽

Ness, Patrick. A Monster Calls. The story of a boy dealing with his mother’s very serious illness—with the aid of a parable-telling monster. If you like sad, intense, emotional books this one’s for you. 📚 😞

Palacio, R.J. Wonder. What would you do if you came to school in the fall and next to you was a kid whose face was so deformed it made you gasp when you looked at him? This book is about Auggie—that kid—who enrolls in a private New York City middle school after having been home schooled for his whole life. How will it go? The story is told first from Auggie’s point of view, then from others’. This is an amazing book. Not depressing. 📚 🤩

Rex, Adam. The True Meaning of Smekday. Gratuity Tucci’s school essay, fully illustrated, about a recent space invasion in which she teamed up with a good alien to try to save the world from bad ones. Hilarious and captivating. 📚 😊

Roth, Veronica. Divergent. Imagine a society divided into factions: Abnegation, Candor, Dauntless, Erudite and Amity. Each faction values one quality above all others. Abnegation favors selflessness, for Candor it is honesty, Dauntless favors bravery, for Erudite it is intelligence, and Amity favors peace. At age sixteen, everyone chooses a faction to join. Which one will Beatrice choose? Does she fit in anywhere? Read it before the movie comes out next year. Warning: Quite violent. Sequel: Insurgent 📚 ⚽

Schlitz, Laura Amy. Splendors and Glooms. In a Dickensian London, meet a powerful puppeteer, orphaned siblings, and a rich girl looking for magic to brighten her sad, strange life. From the author of the also-fabulous A Drowned Maiden’s Hair, which like Splendors and Glooms is available for download from the Saint Ann’s Digital Library. Splendors won a Newbery Honor in 2013. 📚 💟

Smith, Dodie. The 101 Dalmatians. The classic British adventure story starring brave and noble dogs. FYI—much more mature than the movie versions. 📚 📚

Standiford, Natalie. The Secret Tree. Two friends who’ve just met discover a tree with a hollow trunk. Inside, they find tiny strips of paper on which are written the deepest secrets of people in their neighborhood, things like, “I put a curse on my enemy. And it’s working.” Raymond and Minty set out to solve the mysteries behind the secrets—while working through some secrets of their own. 📚 📚
Stead, Rebecca. **When You Reach Me.** In Manhattan in 1978, life seems fine for 12-year-old best friends Miranda and Sal. Then things get disturbing. Sal is punched by a new kid for no apparent reason. He cuts Miranda out of his life. And Miranda finds a mysterious note scribbled on a scrap of paper: I am coming to save your friend’s life, and my own. I must ask two favors. First, you must write me a letter. Winner of the 2010 Newbery Medal. 📚 📚

Stephens, John. **The Emerald Atlas.** Taken from their parents as small children and sent to live in a series of orphanages, siblings Kate, Michael and Emma have no idea of the danger they’re in or the magical worlds that await them—until they find an ancient green leather book, The Emerald Atlas. Impossible to put down. **Sequel: The Fire Chronicle,** also from the Saint Ann’s Digital Library! ☹️

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **One Crazy Summer.** It’s 1968, and three African-American sisters fly from Brooklyn to Oakland, California. They’re spending the summer with their mother, a poet who had left them with their father years before to join the Black Panthers. Mystery, humor, and history combine with compelling characters to make this a must-read! 📚 😊

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**And...try one of these Classics,** all available from the Saint Ann’s Digital Library.


**Series**

*Read an entire series this summer!* Or, read two!

**Birdsall, Jeanne. Penderwicks Series.** Four sisters—responsible Rosalind, math-genius Sky, writer Jane, and shy Batty who loves her dog—spend a revealing, adventurous summer in a country house on the Arundel estate. The owner is evil. His son is fascinating. These books are a perfect summer escape! **The Series:** *The Penderwicks, The Penderwicks on Gardham Street,* and *The Penderwicks at Point Mouette.*

**Blume, Judy. Fudge Series.** About a typical New York kid named Peter Hatcher and his annoyingly cute little brother whose nickname is Fudge. Is it the best kids’ series ever? You be the judge. **The Series:** *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Superfudge, Fudge-a-Mania, Double Fudge.*

**Carman, Patrick. The Land of Elyon Series.** Elyon consists of dark hills, mysterious forests, and a series of cities connected and encircled by great stone walls. Alexa dreams of finding out what lies beyond the walls—and when she does, she encounters a magical world that is on the brink of destruction. What will she do? **The Series:** *The Dark Hills Divide, Beyond the Valley of Thorns,* *The Tenth City,* Stargazer, and *Into the Mist* (a prequel).

**Dashner, James. Maze Runner Trilogy.** Thomas awakens in an elevator and remembers nothing except his own name. When the door opens, he finds himself with a bunch of other teenage boys in a huge maze guarded by horrifying monsters. A new boy arrives every month. None of them knows how they got there; nobody can figure a way out. Then a comatose girl arrives with a strange message. **Warning:** Truly scary. **The Series:** *The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials,* and *The Death Cure.*

Muchamore, Robert. **Cherub**. Cherub is a top-secret branch of the British Security Service that employs orphans as agents. For official purposes, these children do not exist. The books are packed with adventure, but they also manage to squeeze in plenty of compelling drama about the agents’ friendships and rivalries. **The Series**: *The Recruit, The Dealer, Maximum Security, The Killing, Divine Madness, Man vs. Beast, The Fall, Mad Dogs, The Sleepwalker, The General, Brigands M.C., and Shadow Wave.*

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Margaret and Maizon Trilogy**. The relationship between two best friends growing up together in Brooklyn changes as one’s father dies and the other goes to boarding school. A great realistic friendship series. **The Series**: *Last Summer With Maizon, Maizon at Blue Hill, and Between Madison and Palmetto.*

Read a Series Digitally

You probably know about the series listed below, but have you read all of them? You can now! The books in these great series are available for download from the Saint Ann’s Digital Library:


**Graphic Novels & Illustrated Books**

Deutsch, Barry. **Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword**. Mirka, an Orthodox Jewish girl, isn’t interested in knitting (her stepmother wants her to do it), finding a husband (despite her sister’s hints), or really anything other than fighting dragons. When a witch offers her the chance to win a sword—the book jumps between realism and fantasy—the story takes off. Sequel: **Hereville: How Mirka Met a Meteorite**.

Hale, Shannon and Dean. **Calamity Jack**. Jack and the Beanstalk—if Jack were a somewhat bumbling criminal mastermind who had a very close friend named Rapunzel, who could do amazing things with her braids. Read it! And if you haven’t read *Rapunzel’s Revenge* by the same authors, read that too.

Kibuishi, Kazu. **Amulet (Volumes 1-5)**. Part manga, part fantasy. Emily and her brother are transported to a different world by a mysterious amulet. Will it help them find their mother—who is now lost in the same world? Is the amulet’s power all for good? A continuing series.
Hernandez, Gilbert. **Marble Season.** A magic summer story about kids who love comic books; tales of long, sunny days filled with marble tournaments, treasure hunts, and Captain America plays performed in the backyard. Loosely based on the author’s childhood in California. So much fun—and you’ll learn fascinating facts about the history of comics.

Lambert, Joseph. **Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller.** Helen lost her sight and hearing when she was two. Five years later, Annie, a brave young teacher, arrived and taught her to interact with the world again. The illustrations showing how Helen must have felt during the years of darkness, and in the moments she learned how to reconnect, are amazing. Annie’s story is fascinating too. All true!

O’Connor, George. **Poseidon: Earth Shaker.** Find out how Poseidon became king of the seas and where that trident came from. The god tells his own story: from what it was like in Kronos’s stomach to how it feels to be father to a Cyclops. Beautifully illustrated, comic book style. The latest in the author’s Olympians series, which includes *Hades, Hera, Zeus,* and *Athena.*

Pastis, Stephan. **Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made.** Meet Timmy: CEO of the best detective agency in town—maybe in the world. See him dash from job to job on the Failuremobile (his mom’s Segway). Meet his brave sidekick: a polar bear named Total. Chuckle at his company’s name: Total Failure, Inc. Hilarious and totally original.

Smith, Jeff. **Bone Series.** A hilarious Lord of the Rings-style epic featuring bloppy creatures who stumble into a valley populated with supernatural beings, and find themselves dragged into a struggle for power and money. Hilarious and totally original. **The Series:** *Out from Boneville, The Great Cow Race, Eye of the Storm, The Dragonslayer, Rock Jaw, Old Man’s Cave, Ghost Circles, Treasure Hunters, Crown of Horns.*

Telgemeier, Raina. **Drama.** A middle school play. Is there more drama onstage or off? Misery and merriment, from the author of the much-loved *Smile.*

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**Nonfiction**

*From Serious to Fun*

Beals, Melba Patillo. **Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High.** The true story of the nine brave African-American students who stood up to hate and violence to integrate Little Rock High School in 1957, told by one of the nine. Intense and sometimes disturbing. Especially great if you’ve read *The Lions of Little Rock.*

Claybourne, Anna. **100 Deadliest Things on the Planet.** The most dangerous sharks. The most venomous insects. Killer diseases with no cure. All ranked according to their “deadly degree.” What’s the most deadly? You’ll be surprised.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Titanic: Voices from the Disaster.** The story of the 1912 tragedy, told with cliffhangers, personal profiles, and amazing photos (including rare shots of the ill-fated voyage). You’ll hang on every word—even though you do know how it ends.
Jackson, Donna M. **Phenomena: Secrets of the Senses.** Does ESP exist? Can some people really sense what others are feeling? Do animals have “super-senses”? How can some dogs detect cancer by smell? Check out this book, and learn the answers to these questions and more.

Nardo, Don. **Migrant Mother: How a Photograph Defined the Great Depression.** The story behind Dorothea Lange’s famous photo, with background about the era and Lange’s work. Part of a great series on important photos that also includes, *Birmingham 1963: How a Photo Rallied Civil Rights Support* and **Man on the Moon: How a Photo Made Anything Seem Possible.**

Tack, Karen and Alan Richardson. **Cupcakes, Cookies & Pie, Oh My!** Use pound cake, candies, pretzels, and chips to make wacky fun desserts—like the Pork-Upine (a pink pig cupcake with magenta icing quills). Or, just sip a glass of lemonade and browse the amazing pictures.


Schlitz, Laura Amy. **The Hero Schliemann: The Dreamer Who Dug for Troy.** For centuries, scholars argued: Where was Homer’s Troy? Did the Trojan War really happen? As a poor boy in Germany, Schliemann asked himself these questions—then grew up to help answer them.

Sheinkin, Steve. **Lincoln’s Grave Robbers.** A true-crime thriller about counterfeiters and the plot to steal the president’s body from its tomb and hold it for ransom. A ghoulishly engaging read from the best kids history writer working today. Also check out *King George: What Was His Problem?* or **Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon.**

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**Digital Library Facts: What You Need to Know**

*Students need a username and PIN to browse the collection and check out books.*

**Your library card number** is simply your student log-in (what you type when you arrive at school in the morning) *with an “S” in front.* For example, if your name is Eleanor Roosevelt and your log-in is ROOS011, your library card number is SROOS011.

**Your PIN** is your first and last initial, lower case, followed by the last two digits of your library card number. So, Eleanor, your pin is *er11.*

**Now, go read some books!** Access the library at [saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com](http://saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com) or through the library’s online catalog.

**Other things to keep in mind:**

You can check out a book from the digital library using a 3G or WiFi connection. But to actually download it to your device, **you must use WiFi.** • If you want to use a Nook or other device, use your username and password to log onto the digital library, and then click “Help.” You will find directions there. • Books on this list that are available digitally are shaded, like this box is.

*Have a fantastic summer! Love, Your Librarians*

Current and past reading lists can be found online at [http://www.saintannsny.org/depart/library/publib.html](http://www.saintannsny.org/depart/library/publib.html)