Suggested Summer Reading List
for students entering fifth & sixth grades

Fiction

**KEY**
- available through digital library; ♦ - mystery; ♡ - romantic;
 >/ - scary/creepy; ♤ - sci fi; ♦ - sports; ♣ - artsy; ♠ - there’s a movie based on the book; ♦ - spooky; ♣ - promotes peace; ♪ - historical fiction; ☺ - sad; ♡ - animals;
 ♦ - violent; ♦ - bloody; ☺ - funny; ♣ - fantasy; ♠ - realistic fiction

Appelt, Kathi. **The True Blue Scouts of Sugarman Swamp.** Bloodthirsty wild hogs and two greedy real-estate developers are headed for Sugar Man Swamp. Intrepid raccoon scouts must take action to protect the swamp. Finalist for a 2013 National Book Award. ☺ ♣ ♠

Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Ivan.** “I am Ivan. I am a gorilla. It’s not as easy as it looks.” Thus begins last 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. ☺☺ ♠

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. ♣ ♠

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. ♣ ♠

**Read Library books all summer long!**

With the Saint Ann’s Digital Library, students can check out e-books any time! Access the digital library at [http://saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com](http://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 download books. They can easily generate their own. Find instructions for doing so and other digital library tips on the last page of this list.

**Titles on this list that are available through the digital library are indicated with this symbol—♠—and are shaded.**
Blackwood, Gary. **Curiosity.** Rufus feels powerful when he’s inside the Turk, moving chess pieces and vanquishing opponents. Spellbound audiences don’t realize that there’s a person inside the contraption—they think it has a mind of its own. Rufus, a small boy with a curved spine, is a virtual hostage to the shady showman who owns the Turk. Set in 1816 Philadelphia, this story is packed with mystery, adventure, and cool historical detail.  

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.  

Carter, Scott William. **Wooden Bones.** The story of Pinocchio with a dark and scary twist. Action-packed, creepy, and satisfyingly short!  

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.  

Colfer, Chris. **The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell.** A magical book given to them by their grandmother sends siblings on a journey into the fairy tale realm. Clever and heartfelt. **Sequel:** **The Enchantress Returns**  

Cooper, Susan. **Ghost Hawk.** The haunting story of the friendship between two boys—a Pilgrim and a Wampanoag Indian—in the 17th century. Memory, mystery, murder.  

DiCamillo, Kate. **Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures.** A quick clever read featuring a girl, a squirrel, and superpowers. Winner of the 2014 Newbery Medal.  

Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Mind.** Melanie is the smartest kid in her school, but nobody knows it. She has cerebral palsy and can’t communicate at all with the outside world—until she discovers a way to make herself heard. Riveting, full of heartbreak and hope.  

Federle, Tim. **Better Nate Than Ever.** Nate steals away from small-town Pennsylvania to try out for **ET**, the Broadway musical. His first impressions of New York are hilarious, as are his observations about Broadway culture and his overly-prepared competitors. Nate is out of his league, but his quirkiness—and photographic memory—may be enough to land him a spot in the show. Smart, heartwarming, laugh-out-loud funny. **Sequel:** **Five, Six, Seven, Nate!**  

Fforde, Jasper. **The Last Dragonslayer.** Imagine a magical world where the magic is slowly draining away. The cause is unclear, 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. **Sequel:** **Song of the Quarkbeast**
**Fitzgerald, Laura Marx. *Under the Egg.*** After a little accident with some rubbing alcohol, Theo finds that her late grandfather’s painting of a giant egg was painted atop what appears to be a priceless Renaissance masterpiece. She needs the money the painting would bring if she sold it—her flighty mom is basically useless. But her grandfather was a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Could he have stolen the painting? Mystery! 🎖️

**Green, Tim. *New Kid.*** Tommy has just batted in a game-winning run when his dad shows up at the ballpark. He’s not there to cheer. Tommy and his dad are always on the run, and it’s time to leave again. Will things be different in the small town where they settle? Baseball, meet 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. 🌟

Herrick, Amy. *The Time Fetch.* Edward remembers at the last minute that he’s supposed to bring a rock to class. He grabs one from the ground—but it’s not just any rock. It’s a Time Fetch, and contains tiny beings that steal time. They’re supposed to steal moments that don’t matter, but when they’re released too soon…. Read the novel to find out! It’s philosophical, adventure-filled, and touching all at once. 🌟

**Howe, James. *Also Known As Elvis.*** If you liked *Totally Joe* (the read-aloud in our fifth-grade library classes) don’t miss this new book. In it, Skeezie, who is about to have his first child at the age of 25, recalls the very important summer he spent in Paintbrush Falls between seventh and eighth grades—when Joe, Addie, and Bobby were off having adventures. 📚

**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. 😊


Kennedy, Caroline. *Poems to Learn by Heart.* From Emily Dickinson to Langston Hughes and even the Gettysburg Address, a fantastic collection of verse to memorize—or simply appreciate. Yes, it’s *the* Caroline Kennedy.

**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. (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. 🎪 🎬
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—awkward Jack, popular Bree, 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.

Messner, Kate. *Wake Up Missing*. The survivor of a traumatic head injury, 12-year-old Cat can recall only bits and pieces of her past. Hoping for a cure, she’s thrilled to be accepted at I-CAN, a “miracle” treatment center. But things seem odd from the start. Are she and the other kids there to be treated—or experimented on? Edge-of-your-seat thrills!

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.

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.

Pullman, Phillip. *Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm: A New English Version*. Master storyteller Pullman, author of *The Golden Compass*, brilliantly retells his favorites, some familiar (like “Snow White” and “Little Red Riding Hood”), others less well-known (bet you haven’t heard of “The Girl With No Hands”).

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.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting by 7s*. Willow Chance is a brilliant, charmingly odd 12-year-old who loves the number 7. When tragedy strikes her family, she starts to connect with new people—as her life and the lives of all around her are irrevocably changed.

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

Snow, Alan. *Here Be Monsters!* If you like, goofy funny fantasy and don’t mind a really long book (with pen-and-ink drawings on almost every page), read this tale of a nice boy named Arthur who lives underground with his grandfather and must battle the evil Cheese Guild. A movie version is coming in September.
Steps, 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.***

Timberlake, Amy. **One Came Home.** Mystery, history, and wild-west adventure! It’s 1871, and 13-year-old Georgie lives in a frontier town in Wisconsin. She refuses to believe what everyone in town says is true—that a body the sheriff brought back is that of her older sister Agatha. So, she takes her gun, climbs onto a borrowed mule, and sets out to get to the bottom of things. Won a Newbery Honor this year.

Vawter, Vince. **Paperboy.** “I’m typing about the stabbing for a good reason. I can’t talk.” Great beginning for an exciting book about a boy who has the meatiest fastball in town—but suffers with a terrible stutter. He takes over his friend’s paper route for a month (knowing he’d have to communicate with the customers somehow), and shocking events unfold. Set during a hot summer in 1959 Memphis, Tennessee. Won a Newbery Honor this year.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **P.S. Be Eleven.** Vonette and her two younger sisters have returned to Brooklyn after a summer in Oakland California with their mother, a poet and Black Panther member. A great coming-of-age story set in turbulent, exciting times. (Richard Nixon! The Jackson 5!) Sequel to the also-wonderful **One Crazy Summer,** but stands perfectly on its own.

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

- **The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** by Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte
- **The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- **The War of the Worlds** by H.G. Wells
- **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Treasure Island** by Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott

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**Series**

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

Birdsall, Jeanne. **Penderwicks Series.** Four sisters—responsible Rosalind, math-genius Skye, 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.*

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. Looking for the movie version coming this fall. **Warning:** Truly scary. **The Series:** *The Maze Runner, The Scorch Trials,* and *The Death Cure.*
DeTerlizzi, Tony. **The Search for WondLa Series.** 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. **The Series:** *The Search for WondLa, A Hero for WondLa* and *The Battle for WondLa.*


Mass, Wendy. **The Willow Falls Series.** The magical, heartfelt birthday-oriented series, with a family curse thrown in. The concluding entry in this series was just released. **The Series:** *11 Birthdays, 12 Finally, 13 Gifts,* and *The Last Present.*

McManus, Lisa. **The Unwanteds Series.** 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. **The Series:** *The Unwanteds, Island of Silence,* and *Island of Fire.*

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.*

Ripken, Cal, Jr. and Kevin Cowherd. **Cal Ripken Jr.’s All-Stars.** Batting slumps! Crazy parents in the stands! Unfounded criticism from the school newspaper! Baseball drama on and off the field, featuring boy and girl players. **The Series:** *Hothead, Super-Sized Slugger, Wild Pitch* and *Squeeze Play.*

Roth, Veronica. **Divergent Series.** 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 will Beatrice choose? Does she fit anywhere? Warning: Quite violent. **The Series:** *Divergent, Insurgent* and *Allegiant.*

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:

- **The Harry Potter Series** by J.K. Rowling
- **His Dark Materials Trilogy** by Philip Pullman
- **Percy Jackson Series** by Rick Riordan
- **A Series of Unfortunate Events** by Lemony Snicket
- **Books of Ember Series** by Jeanne DuPrau
- **Alex Rider Series** by Anthony Horowitz (first three volumes)
- **Fudge Series** by Judy Blume
- **Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel** by Michael Scott

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**Graphic Novels & Illustrated Books**

Hale, Nathan. *Treaties, Trenches, Mud and Blood: A World War I Tale.* Latest entry in the Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales series, a lighthearted but fact-based tour through the major events of World War I. (And don’t miss the other entries in the series, including *One Dead Spy, Big Bad Ironclad,* and *The Donner Dinner Party.*)

Harrell, Rob. *Monster on the Hill.* In England a hundred or so years ago, towns were proud of their scary monsters. When a monster named Rayburn lets his villagers down, they help him reach his full, terrifying potential. Funny!

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.


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?

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 re-connect, are amazing. Annie’s story is fascinating too. All true!
Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin. **March: Book One.** Lewis, a civil rights pioneer, recounts his life’s journey—from child of Alabama sharecroppers to congressional representative. Amazing first-person storytelling and exciting illustrations. Can’t wait for Part Two!

O’Connor, George. **Aphrodite: Goddess of Love.** Remember how much you enjoyed hearing this author speak when he came to the library? Here’s his new book—exciting, thoroughly researched, awesomely illustrated as usual. Don’t miss it! It’s the latest in his Olympians series, which includes *Hades, Hera, Zeus, Athena,* and *Poseidon.*

Smith, Jeff. **Bone Series.** A hilarious Lord-of-the-Rings-style epic featuring blobby creatures who stumble into a valley peopled 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.*

Yang, Gene Luen. **Boxers & Saints.** A pair of graphic novels about the Boxer Rebellion—a war in China that started in 1898. Each book shows a different side in the war, in which young people banded together and held rituals that they thought gave them mystical powers, then marched into battle against foreign missionaries. Amazing art, fascinating for history buffs.

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**Nonfiction**

*From Serious to Fun*

Douglas, Gabrielle and Michelle Burford. **Grace, Gold & Glory: My Leap of Faith.** Personal and inspiring autobiography of Olympic gold-medal gymnast Gabrielle Douglas. We haven’t been able to keep the book on the shelves since we got it!

Herman, Sarah. **Extreme Bricks: Spectacular, Record-Breaking, and Astounding Lego Projects From Around the World.** The subtitle says it all. Hundreds of photos, plus stories about Lego competitions and genius Lego builders.

Holland, Jennifer S. **Unlikely Friendships: 47 Remarkable Stories from the Animal Kingdom.** A cockatoo curled up with a cat. A dachshund nursing a piglet. A goat perched atop a hippo. This charming book is full of touching stories, but it’s worth checking out for its photographs alone. If this is your cup of tea, check out the companion volume, *Unlikely Loves.*

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 already know how it ends.
Newman, Paticia. **Plastic Ahoy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.** What happens when bottles, old toothbrushes, bags, and other plastic doesn’t wind up in the right trash can? It often makes its way into the water, and once there, to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—where millions of pieces of plastic have collected. This book documents an expedition of scientists who went to explore and understand what’s happening out there. It’s not pretty—but it’s fascinating.

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles.** What’s it like to jump out of an airplane? This book makes you feel like you’ve really done it—and tells the story of the U.S. military’s first black paratroopers, who broke down racial barriers in the military and beyond.

Tack, Karen and Alan Richardson. **Cupcakes, Cookies & Pie, Oh My!** Use 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. Also consider the authors’ classic *Hello Cupcake*, which will show you how to make cupcakes that look like ears of corn, and much, much more!

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

**Students need a username and PIN to 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.

Books on this list that are available digitally are indicated with this symbol—⪞—and shaded.

**Now, go read some books!** Access the library at [http://saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com](http://saintannsny.lib.overdrive.com) or through the library’s online catalog. Or, just Google “Saint Ann’s School Digital Library” and it will come up as the first result.

**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. You can read a book in your browser immediately by choosing the Overdrive Read option during the checkout process. For more information click “help” when you access the digital library.

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*Have a fantastic summer! Love, Your Librarians*

Current and past reading lists can be found online at [http://saintannsny.org/divisions-and-offices/library/high-school-library/reading-list/](http://saintannsny.org/divisions-and-offices/library/high-school-library/reading-list/)