

Saint Ann's 4th & 5th Grade Summer Reading List 2004



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. Katherine Healy recommends this book.

Avi

Crispin: The Cross of the Lead

This is the action-packed story of a thirteen-year-old peasant boy's flight across 14th-century England. After being declared a "wolf's head" by his manor's corrupt steward for a crime he didn't commit (meaning that anyone can kill him like a common animal--and collect a reward), this timid boy, known as "Asta's son," has to flee the tiny village that's the only world he's ever known. He learns from the village priest that his Christian name is Crispin, and that his parents' origins--and fates--might be more perplexing than he ever imagined.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

In 1832, Charlotte Doyle leaves her proper English school and sails alone (with a raggedy, motley crew) across the Atlantic to join her family in Rhode Island. When she leaves England she is a prim and proper young lady, but when she arrives in America she is a changed girl. For one thing she has been accused of murder. To find out what happens in between, read this fabulous page-turner.

Beatty, Patricia

Turn Homeward Hannalee

During the closing days of the Civil War, plucky twelve-year-old Hannalee Reed is sent north by the Union Army to work in a Yankee mill. When the war ends, she struggles to return to the family she left behind in war-torn Georgia.

Belton, Sandra

Summer Camp, Ready or Not

Ernestine and Amanda, two African-American girls growing up in the 1950s, go away to different summer camps. The camps the girls attend differ as markedly as the girls themselves. Ernestine goes to an "all black" camp where the emphasis is on achievement, the rules are many, and the food is unappealing. Camp Castle, mostly white and extremely affluent, offers a completely different experience for Amanda.

Blumberg, Rhoda

Shipwrecked!: The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy

The true tale of a 14-year-old Japanese boy who, after being shipwrecked while fishing in 1841, was marooned

for six months, rescued by an American whaling ship, educated in New England, and returned home to become an honored samurai.

Byars, Betsy

The Dark Stairs

Mystery is in Herculeah Jones' blood. How could it be any other way, with a father on the police force and a mother who runs a private eye business? Herculeah can't resist the case of Dead Oaks. The old estate is a local legend, the site of a murder and an unsolved disappearance. Now history could be repeating itself--unless Herculeah can crack the case.

Clements, Andrew

Things Not Seen

Bobby Phillips is an average fifteen-year-old boy. Until the morning he wakes up and can't see himself in the mirror. Not blind, not dreaming—Bobby is just plain *invisible*. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to Bobby's new condition; even his dad the physicist can't figure it out. For Bobby that means no school, no friends, no life. He's a missing person. Then he meets Alicia. She's blind, and Bobby can't resist talking to her, trusting her. But people are starting to wonder where Bobby is...

Collier, James Lincoln & Christopher Collier

With Every Drop of Blood

Before dying of a wound, Pa extracts from Johnny a promise not to become involved in the Civil War and to care for the farm and family. Within days, Johnny impulsively succumbs to anger and honor, joining a supply train bound for besieged Richmond. In an attack by Union soldiers he is captured, to his deep disgust, by a black soldier, Private Cush Turner.

Creech, Sharon

Walk Two Moons

Thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle's mother has disappeared. While tracing her steps on a car trip from Ohio to Idaho with her grandparents, Salamanca tells a story to pass the time about a friend named Phoebe Winterbottom whose mother vanished and who received secret messages after her disappearance. One of them read, "Don't judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins." Zuri Barnes recommends this book.

Danzinger, Paula & Ann Matthews Martin

P.S. Longer Letter Later

Shy, quiet Elizabeth likes whole-wheat doughnuts, but her best friend, Tara*Starr, likes custard ones with vanilla icing and multicolored sprinkles. Despite their differences, which go way beyond doughnuts, the two seventh-grade girls are inseparable--until Tara*Starr moves away, spurring the warm, engaging correspondence. Danzinger and Martin are friends in real life and they take turns narrating the voice of each girl in alternating chapters. Ava Pollock recommends this book. There's also the sequel *Snail Mail No More*.

Dash, Joan

The World At Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller

This is a very readable account of Helen Keller's life, beginning with the fever that left her blind. You also learn about Anne Sullivan and her remarkable teaching efforts that allowed Helen to communicate with the world. Less known is Keller's later life where she struggles through high school and attends Radcliffe, her so-

cial and political activism, her adult relationship with Annie and Annie's husband, John Macy, and her "love affair" with her secretary Peter Fagan. Try it, you might like it.

Dicamillo, Kate

Because of Winn-Dixie

"I would recommend this book because it is about a girl who is lonely. The book lifts up the happiness of the reader," writes Mika Fox, when the girl, called Opal, finds a pet dog whom she names Winn-Dixie. Opal's love for Winn-Dixie gives her the courage to ask her father about the mother who abandoned them.

Tale of Despereaux

Despereaux, a tiny mouse with huge ears, is the bane of his family's existence. He has fallen in love with the young princess who lives in the castle where he resides and, having read of knights and their ladies, vows to "honor her." But his unmouselike behavior gets him banished to the dungeon, where a swarm of rats kill whoever falls into their clutches. Nico Premutico recommends this book, "Because it's about a mouse who doesn't eat food on tables." Jena Gilbert-Merrill writes, "I like this book because mice are very cool. Kate Dicamillo is an awesome writer."

DiTerlizzi, Tony & Holly Black

The Field Guide (Spiderwick Chronicles, Book I)

When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. Sam Melnick recommends this book, "because it is a funny good mystery... Jared, Simon and Mallory live in a haunted house where bad things keep happening."

Draanen, Wendelin Van

Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception

Sammy Keyes has a lot of nerve. Wearing high-tops to a fancy reception at an art gallery. Asking why a framed orange splot is worth \$10,000. Eyebrows rise. Noses turn up. But then Sammy tackles a thief who tries to break up the soiree with a stickup. Now the patrons of the arts are glad she has a lot of nerve. Or are they? Sammy may have stopped a criminal, but the real crime has yet to be discovered. The real crime is more subtle, more artful, than anything Sammy's ever seen. She had no idea art could be so dangerous. . . .

Duane, Diane

So You Want to be a Wizard: The First Book in the Young Wizards Series

Thirteen-year-old Nita, tormented by a gang of bullies because she won't fight back, finds the help she needs in a library book on wizardry which guides her into another dimension. Cordelia Senie recommends the entire series because they are so good, "You just don't want to stop reading."

Edwards, Julie Andrews

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles

The Whangdoodle was once the wisest, the kindest, and the most extraordinary creature in the world. But then people stopped believing in him. So he disappeared and created a wonderful land for himself and all the other remarkable animals. It was an almost perfect place where the last of the really great Whangdoodles could rule his kingdom with "peace, love and a sense of fun"--apart from and forgotten by people. However, he wasn't completely forgotten because Professor Savant believed in the Whangdoodle. When the Professor told the three Potter children of his search for the spectacular creature, they were eager to explore. Zachary Mittman recommends this book.

Farley, Walter

The Black Stallion

“The black stallion is about a boy and a horse who don’t know each other and they are on a ship. They get shipwrecked and everyone except for the boy and the black stallion die. They get to an island, but they get stranded there. Obviously they escape,” writes Jack Warnke. This is a classic worth reading.

Feiffer, Jules

The Man in the Ceiling

A disappointment to his father, a daydreamer in the classroom, and a failure on the ball field, Jimmy Jibbett decides that, at 10, he is a flop as a boy. He finds comfort, however, in his talent for drawing and in his conviction that he will one day be a great cartoonist. But even this dream is threatened when the most popular boy in school decides that he and Jimmy should collaborate on a strip. This is a humorous book.

Forrester, Sandra

The Everyday Witch: A Tale of Magic and High Adventure

On Beatrice Bailey’s twelfth birthday she will get her official classification as a witch. But will she be named an ordinary Everyday Witch or a specially empowered Classical Witch? When the big day arrives, the Witches' Executive Committee can't decide how to classify her. At last, they agree that her Maximum Magic Level must be tested, and to pass the test she must break a spell that has been cast by the evil sorcerer, Dally Rumpel. Thus begins Beatrice's series of adventures. Jojo LeBlanc writes, “Yes, I love this book! I love this book because it is adventurous, magical and is about 4 friends and a cat and the 4 friends are completely different.”

Gantos, Jack

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

Joey Pigza can't sit still. He can't pay attention, he can't follow the rules, and he can't help it. Joey's had problems ever since he was born, problems just like his dad and grandma have. And whether he's wreaking havoc on a class trip or swallowing his house key, Joey's problems are getting worse. This is the first in a trilogy of books which also include *Joey Pigza Loses Control* and *What Would Joey Do?* They are honest and actually incredibly funny.

Gilbreth, Frank B. & Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

Cheaper By the Dozen

The Gilbreth dad is a motion study expert –he finds ways to do everything more efficiently, from soaping up in the bath to learning Morse Code. The Gilbreth mother is a brilliant, compassionate psychologist who makes each of her twelve children feel as special as an only child. Together, these two parents, along with their rambunctious children of various ages, make an incredibly heart-warming family story. This is so much better than the movie!

Hahn, Mary Downing

The Dead Man in Indian Creek

Matt and Parker are camping near Indian Creek when they find a dead man with a bullet in his head floating in the water. They think they know who did it and they attempt to solve the crime. Soon they find themselves in deep water themselves...

Henkes, Kevin

Olive's Ocean

"Olive Barstow was dead. She'd been hit by a car on Monroe Street while riding her bicycle weeks ago. That was about all Martha knew." Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends. But they weren't -- and now all that is left are eerie connections between two girls who were in the same grade at school and who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. A family summer vacation on Cape Cod should help banish those thoughts— instead they seep in everywhere.

Hughes, Monica

Invitation to the Game

Unemployed after high school in the highly robotic society of 2154, Lisse and seven friends resign themselves to a boring existence in their "Designated Area" until the government invites them to play *The Game* which takes them to paradise. But is this world real or only a computer simulation?

Juster, Norton

The Phantom Tollbooth

If you haven't read this yet, you should. Milo is very bored and can't see the point to anything. He gets thrown out of his slump by the sudden and curious appearance of a tollbooth in his bedroom. Since Milo has absolutely nothing better to do, he dusts off his toy car, pays the toll, and drives through. What ensues is a crazy journey. Mikela Sheskier writes, "*The Phantom Tollbooth*, although fictional, gives you a whole new look on the life of language and words."

Kehret, Peg

Earthquake Terror

After Jonathan's mother breaks her ankle on a family camping trip, Jonathan and his disabled younger sister are left alone on a deserted island. Then a devastating earthquake hits and siblings must fight for their lives. This book starts off with a bang and never stops!

Keene, Carolyn

Nancy Drew and the mystery of the Old Clock

Alessandra Roubini likes this book, "because it's very suspenseful and fun. It's one of those books where you never want to put it down." Any of the Nancy Drew books make for great summer reading.

Korman, Gordon

No More Dead Dogs

Eighth-grade football player, Wallace Wallace, has noticed that in every novel the dog always dies. For expressing his true views of *Old Shep, My Pal*, Wallace earns a detention that takes him off the team and plunks him down in the auditorium, where his almost equally stubborn English teacher is directing a theatrical version of— you guessed it...

The Zucchini Warriors

Bruno and Boots want to lead the Zucchini Warriors football team to victory for MacDonald Hall- they just have to figure out how to win. They find the answer right next door—at Miss Scrimmage's Finishing School for Young Ladies.

Lalicki, Tom

Spellbinder: The Life of Harry Houdini

Ehrich Weiss, otherwise known as Houdini, started performing at an early age and followed his ambitions as they led him around the world, performing amazing stunts and illusions that baffled the crowds. This book recounts many of his most famous tricks, including his escape, handcuffed and chained, from a locked packing case submerged in a bay. Great photographs are included as well.

LeGuin, Ursula

Tombs of Atuan: The Earthsea Cycle

When Tenar is chosen as high priestess to the ancient and nameless Powers of the Earth, everything is taken away -- home, family, possessions, even her name. She is now known as Arha, guardian of the ominous Tombs of Atuan. While she is learning her way through the dark labyrinth, a young wizard, Ged, comes to steal the Tombs' greatest hidden treasure. But Ged also brings with him the light of magic, and together, he and Tenar escape from the darkness. Anna Zanes recommends this book because it is, "dark and mysterious." This is the second book in the series, the first is *The Wizard of Earthsea*.

Meyer, Carolyn

Beware, Princess Elizabeth: A Young Royals Book

The first 25 years of the life of Queen Elizabeth I were quite dramatic; Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded and her father, Henry VIII, was busy with serial marriages. Elizabeth was alternately indulged and ignored by her father. When her father died it opened the door on a host of intrigues. Because the story is told in first person, readers have a sense of being with Elizabeth and feeling the uncertainty, apprehension, and determination she feels. There are several books in this *Young Royals* series.

Murphy, Jim

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

This fantastic non-fiction book tells the story of the horrible yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. Did you know that during the epidemic President George Washington and almost all the other government officials abandoned the city for fear of catching the disease? (The president of the United States didn't live in Washington DC at that time.) The city was run by a bunch of citizens during the horrible epidemic. Around 5,000 people died! One good thing that emerged from the horror was that cities became more conscious about sanitation and water was actually supplied to the city via a waterworks system. Elizabeth Drinker, a citizen of Philadelphia, finally took a bath in 1799, "a full twenty-eight years after her previous bath!"

Myers, Dean Myers

At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England

Once there was a little girl—an orphaned African princess—who narrowly escaped death by human sacrifice in a West African village in 1850. A British sea captain named Frederick E. Forbes saved her life by talking King Gezo of Dahomey into giving the girl to Queen Victoria of England as a gift. As impossible as this tale sounds, it is a true one. The story is pieced together from letters Myers found in a rare book shop in London.

Paolini, Christopher

Eragon

Eragon, a young farm boy, finds a marvelous blue stone in a mystical mountain place. Before he can trade it for food to get his family through the hard winter, it hatches a beautiful sapphire-blue dragon, a race thought to be extinct. Eragon bonds with the dragon, and when his family is killed by the marauding Ra'zac, he discovers

that he is the last of the Dragon Riders. Gideon Davidson and Catherine Hochman recommend this book.

Paulsen, Gary

Voyage of the Frog

Fourteen-year-old David Alspeth intended only to fulfill his uncle's last wish when he set sail in the Frog, but when a savage storm slams into the tiny sailboat, David is stranded. No wind. No radio. Little water. Seven cans of food. And the storm is just the first challenge David must face...

Roberts, Willo Davis

Kidnappers

Joey's reputation for wild stories comes back to haunt him when he's sole witness to a kidnapping but can't get anyone to take him seriously. After seeing classmate Willie Groves pulled into a car outside their exclusive private school, Joey beats his head against a wall of adult disbelief for hours; Ernie the chauffeur laughs it off, his family is skeptical, he gets a lecture about playing pranks from the 911 operator, and when he finally badgers his parents into calling the Groves, they reach a maid taking messages...

Rosales, Melodye Benson

Meet Addy: An American Girl

"I love this book! I'm not sure why, but I know it is very good. It is interesting to learn about how much slaves suffered and how much trouble slaves had to go through to escape," writes Caitlin Ruderman. Addy, a slave on a North Carolina plantation during the Civil War, overhears her parents whispering about the possibility of running away. But after Addy's father and older brother are sold to another master, mother and daughter make the break alone.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Aguascalientes, Mexico, to go work in the farm labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression. The conditions are harsh for the Mexican farm workers and Esperanza has a hard time adjusting. A great read.

Sachar, Louis

The Wayside School Series

"Wayside School is a very funny book in which there is a class on the thirtieth floor where everyone is a bit wacky, especially the teacher, Mrs. Jewls. There is also a yard teacher named Louis. As you may have guessed, Louis the yard teacher is based on Louis Sachar the author," writes Jack Warnke. There are many in this series to enjoy!

Shahan, Sherry

Frozen Stiff

What begins as a two-night camping and kayaking trek in the untamed Alaskan wilderness turns into a test of survival for Cody and her cousin Derek. While their mothers are in Juneau picking up supplies for Yakutat Lodge, the cousins sneak off in an old pickup. The taste of freedom is soon tainted when Cody's kayak is lost on the rising tide, washing away her life vest and precious supplies. With only each other for support, the cousins face hunger and their fears of the unknown region of Southeast Alaska.

Slote, Alfred

Finding Buck McHenry

Jason is moved to his Little League's not-yet formed expansion team of rejected players. Jason has found a sponsor and a couple of good key players, and the school custodian, Mack Henry, has agreed to be their coach. Soon Jason wonders if the baseball-wise Mr. Henry could be the former great pitcher Buck McHenry who once pitched briefly in the Negro Leagues.

Smith, Jeff

Bone, Vol. 1: Out From Boneville

After being run out of Boneville, the three Bone cousins, Fone Bone, Phoney Bone and Smiley Bone, are separated and lost in a vast uncharted desert. One by one, they find their way into a deep, forested valley filled with wonderful and terrifying creatures. This is a good comic book/graphic novel series—and there are a lot of them!

Tolkien, J.R.R.

Hobbit

Cynda Whitehall recommends this book, “because I love adventure books and it’s all about Middle Earth, a hobbit, and a wizard.” Dana Rapisarda recommends this book and writes, “I like it because a wizard takes Bilbo on a great adventure. Bilbo becomes a very brave hobbit.” Miles Bergner writes that, “Bilbo is fighting more than just goblins, he’s fighting his inner self.” Willis Cohen also recommends it. If you haven’t read this yet- or had someone read it to you- try it this summer! Ari Efron says it is a “page-turner.”

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

Bat 6

In a powerful book set in post-World War II Oregon, sixth graders from rival towns prepare for the 50th annual softball game. Two of the players - a Japanese American who spent the war in an internment camp and a girl whose father was killed at Pearl Harbor - collide with tragic results on the day of the big game.

Yep, Laurence

The Case of the Firecrackers

When Auntie Lil takes her niece Lily to the set of TV's hottest show, tempers flare and fuses ignite as a loaded gun, meant to be a prop, finds its way into the scene. Somebody is trying to cause trouble, and everyone is suspect. Lily and her aunt comb San Francisco's Chinatown in search of the culprit responsible for loading the gun. A great new addition to the Chinatown Mystery series.

Happy Reading!