



SAINT ANN'S
Entering 5th and 6th Grades
SUMMER READING LIST
2005

Alexander, Lloyd

The Cat Who Wished to Be a Man

Lionel the cat has been transformed into human form. He can't help but twitch his nose at the sight of a plump partridge and is able to leap with acrobatic skill across Brightford Bridge. Action-packed. Here, kitty, kitty!

Avi

Bright Shadow

Morwenna has five wishes, but there are some rules about how they can be used. She uses up four with no guidance whatsoever. What will she do with the fifth wish? She leaves the kingdom and sets out to discover just that.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Know what it's like when your parents don't believe you? 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 on board she's accused of murder and sentenced to be hanged. Her own family doesn't believe her story! A throwback to good old-fashioned adventure yarns on the high seas.

Babbitt, Natalie

Knee-Knock Rise

From the moment young Egan arrives in Instep, he senses the spell cast over the villagers by the Megrimum--the mysterious monster something that lurks on the mist-wreathed peak of Kneeknock Rise. Everyone shudders in delicious horror whenever the Megrimum's weird wail floats down to the village. Before long, Egan is climbing the Rise to investigate. Eudora Welty said, "This story is thoughtfully written and written to provoke thought. It is about the mysterious, but more than that it's about belief in the mysterious. So do we believe in the Megrimum, or don't we?"

Banks, Lynn Reid

The Farthest-Away Mountain

When she's almost fifteen, Dakin is called by the beautiful farthest-away mountain and sets out on a journey through the wicked wood and along treacherous mountain paths. With a little help from some enchanted friends, she discovers the terrible secret that has controlled the mountain for

200 years and now threatens to destroy the world. By the author of *I, Houdini*, *The Indian in the Cupboard* and *The Adventures of King Midas* this fantasy adventure is light and fun.

Barron, T.A.

The Fires of Merlin

From the moment young Merlin is washed ashore on a beach in ancient Wales to his exciting journey to the enchanted land of Fincayra, the action never wavers. T.A. Barron asks the question, "What was the great Merlin like as a child?" and from here we have this first book of a five-book series that explores the answer. A boy without a name, without a home, and without a memory ... Emrys, as he calls himself, discovers that he possesses a magical power stronger than himself. When he uses this power for hate, he suffers by losing his eyesight. He soon discovers that he has a second sight that allows him to see in a different way. Convuluted, detailed, and gripping.

Beatty, Patricia

Turn Homeward Hannalee

During the closing days of the Civil War, 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. Hannalee sounds kind of like a kid you might be friends with at Saint Ann's, only she's from another time and place.

Bernstein, Nina

Magic By the Book

What if you went to the library and found an old, old book on the shelf that turned out to be magic? How would you like to be magically transported into this old book, and go on flying rides on grasshoppers or adventures with Robin Hood and Maid Marian or encounter leprechauns that live in your garden? Meet Anne, 11, Emily, 9, and their little 7-year-old brother Will.

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...

Colfer, Eoin

The Opal Deception

The new Artemis Fowl book is out! And Artemis's dangerous nemesis, Opal Koboi is back for revenge. At the start of *The Opal Deception*, Artemis has no memory of the fairy people and has returned to his unlawful ways. He doesn't know that his old rival, Opal, has escaped from prison by cloning herself. She's left her double behind in jail and, now free, is exacting her revenge on all those who put her there, including Artemis.

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.

Susan Cooper

The Dark is Rising

On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift — that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world safe from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he's plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. Be prepared for battles, crystal swords, golden grails, and a silver-eyed dog that can see the wind. Susan Cooper's fantasy novels are cousins to Narnia and The Hobbit. Also good for reading out loud.

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."

Cushman, Karen

Rodzina

In 1881, 12-year-old Rodzina Clara Jadwiga Anastazy Brodski wishes she didn't have to board the orphan train in Chicago. But she has no home, no family, and no choice. Rodzina doesn't believe the orphans are on their way out West to be adopted by good families — she's sure they'll become slaves. Who would ever adopt her? Will Rodzina ever step off the train to find the family that she's searching for? Also good reads -- Karen Cushman's first book, *Catherine, Called Birdy*, which received a Newbery Honor, and her second, Newbery Medal winner, *The Midwife's Apprentice*.

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.

Dicamillo, Kate

Tale of Despereaux

Despereaux, a tiny mouse with huge ears, is a disappointment to his mother when he's born. She thinks he'll die early. Instead, Despereaux is a mouse who reads stories about knights, loves music, falls in love with a princess, and is sentenced to death for communicating with humans. In short, he is very, very special.

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

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.

Farley, Walter

The Black Stallion

Chapter headings tell the plot: The Storm/ The Island/ The Wildest of all Wild Creatures/ Rescue/ King of the Herd/ Escape/Training begins/ Cyclone and Sun Raider/ The Mystery Horse/ The Match Race/ Then, the illustrations : "He saw a mighty black horse rear on its hind legs." "Alec went flying into space." "What'd I tell you? They're friends already." "It's the Mystery Horse!" and finally, "They put the horseshoe of roses around his neck." This never gets old and you'll never forget it. *The Black Stallion* is the first in a series, written when the author was 15 years old.

Farmer, Nancy

The House of the Scorpion

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was harvested. His DNA came from El Patrón, lord of a country called Opium -- a strip of poppy fields lying between the United States and what was once called Mexico. As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón's power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacran Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.

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. 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. Hilarious.

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.

Funke, Cornelia

Inkheart

Meggie's father, Mo, refuses to read aloud to her and she doesn't know why. It turns out he has a wonderful and sometimes terrible ability. When he reads aloud from books, he brings the characters to life--literally. Mo discovered his power when Meggie was just a baby. He read so lyrically from the the book *Inkheart*, that several of the book's wicked characters ended up blinking and cursing on his cottage floor. Then Mo discovered something even worse--when he read *Capricorn* and his henchmen *out* of *Inkheart*, he accidentally read Meggie's mother *in*.

George, Jean

My Side of the Mountain

Sam leaves his New York apartment to fend for himself in the Catskill Mountains. He lives in a hollowed-out tree, befriendng animals and depending on his wits for survival. In the sequel, *On the Far Side of the Mountain* Sam's sister has now joined him, and his falcon is confiscated by a conservation officer. The third book, *Frightful's Mountain* is written from the perspective of Frightful the falcon, and follows her efforts to learn to depend on her own instincts in a world crawling with dangers. P.S. You'll probably love all three, but you can read just one.

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.

Horowitz, Anthony

Scorpia

Alex Rider, the 14-year-old spy and adventurer from *Stormbreaker* (2001), *Point Blank* (2002), *Skeleton Key* (2003), and *Eagle Strike* is back. While vacationing in Italy, he is recruited by the deadliest terrorist organization in the world, Scorpia, a British secret intelligence organization. Missing his target and captured by M16, Rider is sent back into Scorpia, as a spy. It is only with Alex's help that M16 can stop the vicious threat. Of course, Alex Rider saves the day, but not without psychological mind gaming and fighting that will bring readers to the edge of their seats and keep them there until the final page. No prior knowledge of the previous books is necessary, as Horowitz drops clues from previous adventures. Readers go crazy for these!

Ibbotson, Eva

The Secret of Platform 13

This modern-day fairy tale featuring a group of endearing mythical creatures (and some less palatable Brits) follows four dwellers of a magical island journeying to London in search of their

kidnapped prince. The hidden door to their world (located on Platform 13 inside a subway station) will be closed for another nine years. Identity mix ups will keep you guessing.

Ihimaera, Witi

Whale Rider

Lots of people think the book is even better than the movie! The rider of an ancient whale rises from the sea throwing spears. One last spear "flew across a thousand years. When it hit the earth, it did not change but waited for another hundred and fifty years to pass until it was needed." It sprouts when Kahu, a girl, is born to the eldest grandson of the chief of the Maori in New Zealand. Koro Apirana is disgusted; he believes he needs a male child to continue the line of descent in the tribe. The years that follow further harden his heart toward his great-granddaughter in spite of the bottomless love and respect she showers upon him. The child's great-grandmother, the irreverent Nanny Flowers, proves to be the strength of this family; she nurtures the girl whom she knows holds the key to the future.

Jansson, Tove

Finn Family Mommintroll

"Moomins look like hippos and they love really cool adventures," says one Saint Ann's student. Another blurts out, "Snuffkin's the coolest!". This well written series is filled with wild Moomin escapades as well as some simple Moomin dreams like falling asleep thinking about having an apple tree of your own. After your first Moomin adventure, others are in store. Moomins, Moomins Moomins! Long live, Moomins!

Jones, Dianna Wynn

Dogbody

The dog star, Sirius, has been accused of murder . He's got a slim chance to prove his innocence and must do it as a pet dog on earth. True blue Kathleen takes care of him and loves him as he confronts dark forces in both humans and celestial beings. This is sci fi and a touching dog and cat story wrapped up in one. You already know dogs and cats understand English. But you won't look at them quite the same way after reading this.

Witch Week

This is Larwood House, the British boarding school where the teacher finds a note declaring one of the students is a witch. The law says witches, good or bad, are to be burned at the stake. By the end of the book, however, being a witch is a badge of honor. Dianna Wynn Jones has written enough juicy books to keep you busy reading on all your summer afternoons, rain or shine.

Kadohata, Cynthia

Kira-Kira

"My sister, Lynn, taught me my first word: *kira-kira*. I pronounced it *ka-a-ahhh*, but she knew what I meant. *Kira-kira* means "glittering" in Japanese. Lynn told me that when I was a baby, she used to take me onto our empty road at night, where we would lie on our backs and look at the stars while she said over and over, "Katie, say '*kira-kira, kira-kira*.'" I loved that word! When I grew older, I used *kira-kira* to describe everything I liked: the beautiful blue sky; puppies; kittens; butterflies; colored Kleenex." Winner of the 2005 Newberry medal, *Kira-Kira* is fun, and sometimes sad, but sad in that way that makes you love reading it. Glittering is right!

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!

Lalicki, Tom

Spellbinder: The Life of Harry Houdini

“When I was 15, I read an autobiography by the French Magician named Jean Robert-Houdin. This changed my life forever. I wanted to be just like Robert-Houdin, so I added the letter “i” which means “like” to his name, and I became Houdini. I did 20 shows a day at a salary of \$12 per week.” Houdini went on to escape from a cannon before the fuse burned down, a coffin buried under water while he was inside in a locked straitjacket, and from famous icy river jumps with lead balls and chains locked onto his ankles. He claimed to be able to escape from anything and to be able talk to people who have died. There are those who swear his tricks were the real thing: magic. Lots of pictures! Afterall, if you see it with your *own eyes*, that must mean it’s true.....

Langton, Jane

The Time Bike

Georgie can fly. Well, she thinks she can. Georgie's desire to fly—to soar gracefully through the clouds—guides this magical story of a young girl who’s unstoppable. Set in and around Walden Pond, and imbued with the gentle reflections of Henry David Thoreau.

Lowry, Lois

Number the Stars

The gripping story of a ten-year-old Danish girl and her family's courageous efforts to smuggle Jews out of their Nazi-occupied homeland to safety in Sweden. Readers are taken to the very heart of Annemarie's experience, and, through her eyes, come to understand the true meaning of bravery. This book is recommended by many slightly older students in deep tones of awe, as in, “This is SO, SO good.”

Meyer, Carolyn

Beware, Princess Elizabeth: A Young Royals Book

You think your parents can be a drag at times? Well, 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 the door opened onto a host of intrigues. Told in the first person. Good news: if you like this there are several books in this *Young Royals* series.

Nesbitt, E.

The Five Children and It

It’s summer. You’re digging around in a gravel pit with your friends. It’s really hot, and you’re not rushed to do anything. Someone suggests you dig for treasure. OK, why not play along. You come across something. It’s weird. Really strange. It’s little. An alive little thing with ears like a bat’s. It turns out this weird thing is a sand fairy who will give you guys a wish every day. This was written a long time ago, but you’re the type of reader who can try something new if it’s worth it. This is worth it! Of course, the kids in the story get some juicy wishes. And into some awesome trouble. Think: what would you wish for?

North, Sterling

Rascal

Raccoons are so cool! The first World War is on and Sterling's brother, Herschel, is overseas. His mother is dead and his father's not home very much. But, Sterling finds a raccoon baby, takes him home in his cap, and names him Rascal. They're free! Independent! Sterling builds a canoe in the living room. Rascal gets into tons of mischief. They camp out, take canoe trips, elude enemies and win a pie eating contest, among other things. Partners and best friends for a perfect year. This classic rocks.

Paolini, Christopher

Eldest (Inheritance, Book 2)

Finally! *The book after Eragon!* (Disclaimer: This won't be out until the 3rd week in August, but summer goes fast when you're reading good books, so watch for this one. If you can wait, it'll be in the library for you when you come back to school in September!) Darkness falls...despair abounds...evil reigns...Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have just saved the rebel state from destruction by the mighty forces of King Galbatorix, cruel ruler of the Empire. Now Eragon must learn more advanced skills of the Dragon Rider: magic and swordsmanship. Who can he trust? He may not escape with even his life. . . .

Eragon

This is Paolini's first book. 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.

Pratchett, Terry

The Wee Free Men

Nine-year-old Tiffany Aching needs magic--fast! Her little brother Wentworth has been spirited away by the evil Queen of the faeries, and it's up to her to get him back safely. Having already decided to grow up to be a witch, all Tiffany has to do is find her power. But she quickly learns it's not all black cats and broomsticks. The sequel, *A Hat Full of Sky*, is also recommended.

Rodgers, Mary

Summer Switch

Freaky Friday was a good book and a good movie, right? This is the boys' turn for a switch-a-roo. From the author of *Freaky Friday* and *A Billion for Boris*, we have *Summer Switch*, wherein twelve-year-old "Ape Face" Andrews is about to go to a dreaded sports summer camp, wishes he could change places with his high-flying executive father and guess what! Can a kid handle a business meeting with a boss nicknamed "The Killer Cream Puff"? Can a dad survive summer camp?

Rowling, J.K.

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

(Book 6) JULY 16!!!!

Shh...rumor has it, one of the characters you're familiar with may die! Don't let the Harry Potter fanatics lead you astray --...even if you haven't read the first five, you CAN read and enjoy this. Even so, don't miss the others if you haven't read them already.

Ryan, Pam Munoz

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy clothes, a beautiful home, & servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and her mother to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—Her mother's life and her own depend on it.

Sachar, Louis

The Wayside School Series

The classroom is on the 30th floor, at the top of the school. Everyone's a bit wacky, especially the teacher, Mrs. Jewls. One kid can only read upside down. Another wears 17 jackets and gets smellier until you peel off the last one and then --. One gets stuck to the seat by his gum. You get the idea: fun!

Shahan, Sherry

Frozen Stiff

Cody and her cousin, Derek, don't always do what their told. While their mothers are in Juneau picking up supplies for Yakutat Lodge, the cousins sneak off in an old pickup. 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. Can you say, "danger"?

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, the series (Graphic novel)

As the first Bone trilogy comes to a conclusion, questions are answered, mysteries are revealed, and the stage is set for the brewing conflict in the valley. Jeff Smith's cartooning is in top form. The dream sequences in this volume are inspired pieces of comics storytelling, especially the six-page "Moby Bone" sequence.

Stroud, Jonathan

The Amulet of Samarkand

This is an alternative London where the most influential members of society, even the Prime Minister himself, are magicians. Nathaniel has been apprenticed to Mr. Underwood for several years. At the age of 12, he has finally been Named and is on his way to becoming a real magician.

Suddenly, London is in an uproar. The Amulet of Samarkand has been stolen from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. Only Nathaniel knows what really happened. There is plenty of action, mystery, and humor to keep readers turning the pages. This title, the first in a trilogy, is a must for those anxious for the next Harry Potter. (A bit challenging, but with a little abracadabra, something you can sink your teeth into.)

Thurber, James

The Thurber Carnival

“You said a moment ago that everybody you look at seems to be a rabbit. Now just what do you mean by that, Mrs. Sprague?” and “Are you the young man that bit my daughter?” or “The owl who was god.” You might wish to explore these chapters further further, dear reader.

Wilson, Jacqueline

The Illustrated Mum

Dolphin adores her mother: she’s got wonderful clothes, bright hair and vivid tattoos all over her body. She definitely lives a colourful life. Dolphin’s older sister, Star, also loves her but is beginning to wonder if staying with a mum whose temper can be as flashy as her body-art is the best thing for the girls...

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

Bat 6

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!