

Saint Ann's

Summer Reading 2006

for kids entering 5th and 6th grades!



Fiction

The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander

Inspired by Welsh mythology, this is the first book in the chronicles of the Land of Prydain. It is the story of young Taran, the Assistant Pig-Keeper, who wants to become a hero. With a motley group of companions, he sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil. This science-fiction fantasy is both exciting and funny, and will keep readers completely absorbed.

Whittington by Adam Armstrong

This novel combines an animal fantasy and a family story with a retelling of the English folktale **Dick Whittington and His Cat**. A scruffy tomcat named Whittington arrives one autumn day at a New England barn, where he eventually befriends a group of rag-tag animals already adopted by the barn's tough but soft-hearted owner, Bernie. When the year's first big snowstorm traps the bored animals in the barn, Whittington begins telling the fascinating story of his namesake, Dick Whittington, to the fellow animals as well as Bernie's grandchildren.

Sounder by William Armstrong

This Newbery Award winning novel quickly became a classic as a moving portrayal of resilience and hope in the face of profound human tragedy. It is the story of a young boy and his dog. Armstrong's bittersweet story still rings true, as determined individuals continue to struggle with the evil of prejudice.

The Spell of the Sorcerer's Skull by John Bellairs

Among the best of John Bellairs' thrillers, this is another classic story of Johnny Dixon and the Professor. In this gripping tale, Professor Childermass vanishes, leaving a demonic skull in a haunted dollhouse. When Johnny removes the tiny skull, evil forces are unleashed.

Colibri by Ann Cameron

Twelve-year-old Rosa's powerful story unfolds as she starts questioning her identity. She has been traveling with a man she calls "Uncle" (for as long as she can remember). To support them, Uncle pretends to be blind and they beg for money on the streets, moving from town to town. Rosa's compelling tale is rich in the culture, traditions and folk beliefs of contemporary Guatemala.

The Tequila Worm by Viola Canabes

Smart and spunky Sofia lives in McAllen, Texas with her Mexican-American family. After yet another kid teases her, calling her a "taco head," she decides to start getting better grades and being a better soccer player than her tormentors. The end result is that she gets offered a full scholarship to a prestigious school in Austin, Texas. Her family is skeptical about sending her to such an elite school. Is Sofia ready to face this challenge?

Samir and Yonatan by Danielle Carmi

Riding his bicycle down the market steps, a young Palestinian boy falls and smashes his knee so badly that he needs surgery. For the first time in his life, Samir leaves his home in the Occupied Territories to go to a Jewish hospital where an American doctor will operate on him. He is initially terrified, trapped among the people he blames for his brother's death. While waiting for the procedure, however, Samir gets to know the Jewish children on his ward and they come to support one another, forming a team that crosses cultural boundaries.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

"How does one describe Artemis Fowl? Various psychiatrists have tried and failed. The main problem is Artemis's own intelligence. He bamboozles every test thrown at him. He has puzzled the greatest medical minds, and sent many of them gibbering to their own hospitals." – excerpt from the prologue. Artemis is a genius, a mastermind, a millionaire, and only twelve years old. Full of mysterious codes and hilarious adventures, this first of four is a delight.

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper

In this first dark fantasy in a sequence of five, eleven-year-old Will Stanton discovers that he is one of "the Old Ones," immortals who are devoted to fighting the forces of evil, called the Dark. He goes on a solitary, snowy quest to find the six Signs that will aid the Old Ones in their battle. As the Dark rises through the twelve days of Christmas, Will learns to accept both the terror and wonder of his challenge.

The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo

The title says a lot – this is a heart-warming, expanded fairytale about a mouse who goes on an unexpected adventure and ultimately finds happily ever after. If you haven't yet read this Newbery Award winner, or DiCamillo's earlier Newbery Honor book **Because of Winn-Dixie**, you must.



The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

Matt is the clone of El Patron, the most powerful drug lord in the world. He lives on the Alacran Estate, receiving a great education, but is never accepted by the family. El Patron is aging; he just celebrated his 147th birthday. Matt begins to get the feeling that his life is in jeopardy. Does El Patron have some sinister use for him? Can Matt escape in time?

The Man in the Ceiling by Jules Feiffer

Written and illustrated by cartoonist Jules Feiffer, this book is a funny, insightful look at the inner life of a young aspiring cartoonist. Jimmy loves drawing cartoons and hopes to be great some day -- but first he must cope with a lack of privacy, a father who wishes he liked sports instead of drawing, and his own urge to give up when he's failing. Just when Jimmy's starting to think that he's "doomed to be as much a flop as a cartoonist as he was as a boy," he finds a way to look at failure in a new light.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

Meggie, 12, has lived alone with her father Mo since her mother went away when she was young. Mo taught her to read when she was five, and the two share a mutual love of books, though her father adamantly refuses to read aloud to her. After a visit from a scarred man who calls himself Dustfinger,

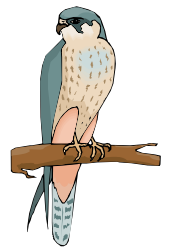
however, things begin to change. Meggie learns that her father has been keeping a secret: he can "read" characters out of books. When she was three, he had read aloud from a book called **Inkheart** and released Dustfinger and other characters into the real world. At the same time, Meggie's mother had disappeared into the story. Mo had also released Capricorn, a sadistic villain who has sent his henchmen to track down Mo in order to force him to read an immortal monster out of the book. In this fascinating story-within-a-story, Meggie and Mo are pursued and repeatedly captured as they attempt to find the author of **Inkheart** in the hope that he can write a new ending to the story.

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

After Coraline and her parents move into an old house, Coraline asks her mother about a mysterious locked door. Her mother unlocks it to reveal that it leads nowhere. But something about the door attracts her, and when she later unlocks it herself, the bricks have disappeared. Through the door, she travels a dark corridor into a world that eerily mimics her own, but with sinister differences. "I'm your other mother," announces a woman who looks like Coraline's mother, except "her eyes were big black buttons." Coraline eventually makes it back to her real home only to find that her parents are missing -- they're trapped in the shadowy other world, and of course, and it's up to their courageous daughter to save them.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Young Sam Gibley runs away to the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There he sets up house in a huge hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions and his wits as his tool for survival. In this touching, funny story, Sam learns to live off the land. Blizzards, hunters, loneliness, and fear all battle to drive Sam back to city life, but his desire for freedom and independence is stronger.



Nory Ryan's Song by Patricia Reilly Giff

Set in Ireland in the mid 1800's, this is the story of Nory Ryan and her family. They have always been poor farmers, yet they have managed to put enough food on the table. One day, everything changes. A blight attacks the potato crops, which is the family's main source of income. Money and food are scarce and the community becomes desperate. Nory scavenges to find food for her starving family. Bravely, she struggles to survive and remain hopeful while faced with grim circumstances.

The Princess Academy by Shannon Hale

Girls living on Mount Eskel don't have many options for the future: most plan on working for the quarry just like all of their relatives have before them. One day, it is announced that the Prince plans to select a bride from their village! 14-year-old Miri thinks that this might be the golden opportunity that she has been waiting for. Miri and all of the other potential brides are shipped off to a special academy in the lowlands where they suffer from culture shock. The girls face many challenges and hardships including a winter snowstorm that isolates them from the villagers. Each girl has a story of her own in this charming, multilayered tale.

Letters from Riffka by Karen Hess

Refused passage in 1919 because she has ringworm, a young Jewish girl from Russia battles supercilious officials and yards of red tape before she is finally reunited with her family in America. This work of historical fiction has a memorable heroine, a vivid sense of place, and a happily-ever-after ending.

Flush by Carl Hiassen

Siblings Noah and Abbey convince their friends to do some detective work after their dad is arrested for sinking a boat. He says he sunk the casino boat because the owners were illegally dumping raw sewage into the open water. This book is packed with quirky characters and lots of adventure. If you haven't yet read Hiassen's earlier book **Hoot**, you should – it gets rave reviews from the middle school students!

Scorpia by Anthony Horowitz

This action-packed thriller is the fifth book in the popular spy series the **Alex Rider Adventures**. "Go to Venice. Find Scorpia. And you will find your destiny," Alex was told by a dying man at the end of the previous book, **Eagle Strike**. In **Scorpia**, Alex and his friend Tom arrive in Venice to look for clues to his father's identity and death. Was he an agent of M16, the secret world organization that has used Alex before? Or was he a tool of Scorpia, the powerful international criminal agency that specializes in sabotage, corruption, intelligence, and assassination? Alex, still 14-years-old, comes out ahead every time in spite of the heavy odds against him.

Warriors: Into the Wild by Erin Hunter

Rusty, a young "kittypet" (house cat), yearns for adventure. When he's offered the chance to join the ThunderClan, one of the gangs of feral cats in the area, he doesn't hesitate. Renamed Firepaw, he becomes an apprentice and begins to train as a warrior. After rescuing the ex-medicine cat for the ShadowClan, Firepaw and the other ThunderClan members find themselves in the middle of a turf war against the rival gang, led by the nefarious Brokenstar. There's a traitor in their midst, though, and Firepaw must learn more than just hunting and fighting to survive.

The Star of Kazan by Eva Ibbotson

Set in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, this historical novel is highly entertaining! 12-year-old Annika had been abandoned as an infant and was found and raised by a cook and a housemaid. They live in Vienna in their wacky employer's comfortable home in a wealthy neighborhood. Even though she is surrounded by friends, Annika still dreams of meeting her biological parents. One day, a mysterious, well-dressed woman appears at their door with a birth certificate in hand, and claims to be her mother. Annika agrees to go live with her in her faraway castle. Once she gets there, she realizes that nothing is like she imagined it would be. Annika feels homesick and begins to be suspicious of her new family. As she starts collecting clues, her wild adventure begins.

Witch Week by Diana Wynne Jones

Someone in 6B is a witch. And that's not at all a good thing to be. Jones immerses her readers in life at Larwood House, a school in a present-day England that's a lot like the world we know, except for one major difference: witches are everywhere, and they are ruthlessly hunted by inquisitors. Jones tells of the adventures of the class of 6B as they set about to discover who among them is a witch.

Regarding the Fountain: A Tale of Letters, of Liars and Leaks by Kate Klise

How could a simple request for a new water fountain go so very, very off-track? When Principal Wally Russ writes to fountain designer Florence Waters to ask her to replace Dry Creek Middle School's busted drinking fountain, he little suspects that he is sparking the imagination of an *artiste*. Kate Klise's charming mystery novel is told entirely in letters and faxes, as the glamorous Florence visits Dry Creek and becomes friends with Mr. Sam N.'s fifth-grade class.

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin

The first book in Ursula Le Guin's Earthsea cycle, **A Wizard of Earthsea** tells the story of Ged, the greatest sorcerer in all of Earthsea. As a reckless youth, he tampered with dark secrets and unleashed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tale of his testing, his mastery of the words of power, and his journey to restore the balance in Earthsea.

Anastasia Krupnik by Lois Lowry

The first book in the popular series describes the ups and downs of a precocious ten-year-old girl. Anastasia loves keeping lists of important information in her green notebook; when she discovers that her mother is pregnant, she instantly adds two new items to her "things I hate" list: "My parents" and "babies." Lowry has created a warm, humorous portrait of childhood and family life.



Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

On September 29, 1943, word got out in Denmark that Jews were to be detained and then sent to the death camps. Within hours, the Danish resistance arranged for a small flotilla to herd 7,000 Jews to Sweden. In a moving, inspirational work of historical fiction, Lowry personalizes this extraordinary event. We experience the exodus through the eyes of 10-year-old Annemarie, whose family harbors her best friend, Ellen Rosen, on the eve of the round-up and helps smuggle Ellen's family out of the country. This book is a 1990 Newbery Medal winner.

Stay by Lois Lowry

This is a fabulous book about a dog named Keeper who was separated from his family when he was a puppy. His life is full of amusing and adventurous escapades.

The Kite Rider by Geraldine McCaugherean

Haoyou is a 12-year-old in 13th century China, just conquered by the Mongol leader Kublai Khan. He goes to see his beloved father off on another shipping journey when wicked first mate Di Chou puts in motion a terrible plot. Details about superstition, politics, racism, and daily life in 13th century China are superbly conveyed in this beautiful work of historical fiction.

Secret Letters From 0 to 10 by Susie Hoch Morgenstern

Translated from French, this is the tale of 10 year-old Ernest. He has been living an utterly boring life in Paris with his grandmother until a dynamic girl named Victoria joins his class at school.

Midnight for Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo

When he is 10 years old, Charlie Bone suddenly discovers that he can hear the thoughts of people in photographs, a talent that Grandma Bone and her three dour sisters work to bend to their own ends by sending him to Bloor's Academy. It's not an easy year for Charlie, despite the friends he makes. Too many people have it in for him, as he's swept into an age-old battle being waged by descendants of a powerful king of long ago. A mysterious box, a missing girl, a strange man who flits in and out, and various villains all figure into this exciting, fast-paced adventure tale, which is the first book in a quintet called **Children of the Red King**.

The Keys to the Kingdom: Mister Monday by Garth Nix

On Arthur's first day of seventh grade, he suffers an asthma attack and dreams that a mysterious figure hands him a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock. When he wakes up, he still has the key. That's when strange things begin to happen. Mister Monday sends terrifying beasts to retrieve the key, a bizarre sleeping illness sweeps the city, and only Arthur can see the weird new house that appears in his neighborhood. This is the first in a thrilling seven-part series, one for each day of the week.

Tales From Shakespeare by Tina Packer

This book retells ten Shakespeare plays using simple language and accompanied by beautiful illustrations. A great introduction to Shakespeare!

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

While exploring the forest, 15-year-old Eragon discovers an odd blue gemstone — a dragon egg, fated to hatch in his care. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of magic and power. He discovers that he is the last of the Dragon Riders, destined to play a decisive role in the coming war against the evil King Galbatorix. With an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon embark on their journey, navigating dangerous terrain, enduring dire wounds, and experiencing capture and escape. Paolini began writing this science-fiction fantasy story when he was just fifteen, the same age as his hero.

A Year Down Under by Richard Peck

Set against the backdrop of the Depression Era, this story features a kind-hearted grandmother who is a sharp shooter, bakes the most delicious pies, and steals pumpkins from her neighbor's garden. A Newbery award winner, this delightful book is the sequel to **A Long Way From Chicago**.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

This inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires -- it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing Game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created an intriguing cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor and suspense.

Girl in Blue by Ann Rinaldi

In this fast-paced Civil War adventure, a 15-year-old Michigan girl named Sarah poses as a boy and enlists in the Union army. She works for a Union doctor, enters into battle and shoots her first Rebel, then carries out a dying man's last request. When her secret is at last discovered, she is pressed into service as a spy and thrust undercover as a maid for a notorious Confederate socialite. In this exciting work of historical fiction, a young woman's patriotism, loyalty, and intelligence are tested.

Dog's Don't Tell Jokes by Louis Sachar

Gary Boone (who calls himself "Goon") is the self-proclaimed clown of his seventh-grade class. He never stops joking, despite the fact that nobody laughs much, and he has no real friends at school. Entering a talent contest as a stand-up comedian forces him to look more closely at the effect his humor has on others and on himself.



Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Maniac Magee is a humorous modern-day folktale. Meet athletic and energetic Maniac Magee: he is the fastest runner in town! There isn't a knot he can't untie! Eventually Maniac Magee must face the issue of racism in his small town.

StarGirl by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl Caraway, a new 10th grader at Arizona's Mica Area High School, wears pioneer dresses and kimonos to school, strums a ukulele in the cafeteria, and laughs when there are no jokes and dances when there is no music. The whole school is stunned by her, including our 16-year-old narrator Leo Borlock: "She was elusive. She was today. She was tomorrow. She was the faintest scent of a cactus flower, the flitting shadow of an elf owl." According to fourth-grader Jasmine, "**Stargirl** is a wonderful book about being you."

The Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud

Nathaniel is a boy magician-in-training, sold to the government by his birth parents at the age of five and sent to live as an apprentice to a master. If leaving his parents and erasing his past life isn't tough enough, Nathaniel's master, Arthur Underwood, is a cold, condescending, and cruel middle-ranking magician in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. When 11-year-old Nathaniel musters the strength to summon the 5,000-year-old djinni Bartimaeus to steal the powerful Amulet of Samarkand, the boy magician plunges into a situation more dangerous and deadly than anything he could ever imagine.

Sammy Keyes and the Dead Giveaway by Wendelin Van Draanen

The Sammy Keyes series are fun reads, full of shenanigans. Sammy is a 12-year-old girl who is very perceptive about her surroundings. She is keenly aware of the corrupt politicians in her neighborhood and realizes something fishy is going on involving an elderly neighbor. Of course, she is determined to get to the bottom of it, yet she is always at the wrong place at the wrong time! Endearing Sammy will keep you at the edge of your seat as you follow her through her crazy adventures.

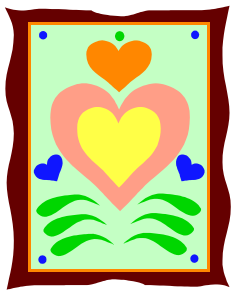
Love, Ruby Lavender by Deborah Wiles

A 9 year-old Mississippian, Ruby Lavender, corresponds with her grandma by leaving her notes and letters in the hollow of a tree in town. Ruby is precocious and lively, yet what happened in an accident the summer before casts a dark shadow over her life. This touching and sometimes comical story deals with themes of misunderstanding and forgiveness.



Dealing With Dragons by Patricia C. Wrede

The princess of Linderwall, Cimorene is a truly classic tomboy-princess! Weary from constantly having to worry about proper etiquette, she runs away and ends up in a nest of dragons. What's funny about this is the fact that Cimorene would much rather keep house for a dragon than live with her parents in boredom and frustration. A group of wizards get together and develop an evil plan to harm the dragons, and in turn, Cimorene makes a plan of her own to save them. Can she do it?



Poetry

Talking to the Sun: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems For Young People collected by Kenneth Koch & Kate Farrell

A fabulous combination of art from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and classic poetry from a wide range of places and time periods. There is something for everyone in this inspiring anthology! These poems are about magic, animals, dreams, and more.

Edna St. Vincent Millay: Poetry for Young People by Edna St. Vincent Millay
Beautiful watercolor illustrations complement the poems.

Something Big has Been Here by Jack Prelutsky
This is a hilarious poetry collection that makes you laugh out loud.

All the Small Poems by Valerie Worth
Worth's poems are short and simple odes to everyday objects, animals, and places. Each one makes the reader think or smile. Booklist said in its review, "It's not a loud book, but it makes you listen."

Non Fiction

Maritcha by Ellen Bolden

This is the story of Maritcha, a free black child before, during, and after the Civil War. Her achievements were extraordinary for her time, gender, and race. During her childhood in downtown Manhattan, she was surrounded by many strong, well-educated adults. Her parents, their friends, and her own determination helped her through hard times. This included the Draft Riots of 1863, the loss of the family home and business, and a struggle for public education. The family documents and photographs contained in this book give the reader a glimpse of 19th-century life in New York City.

Remembering Manzanar by Michael Cooper

Three months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government ordered a forced evacuation of all people of Japanese ancestry living in three west coast states. This unique book gives the reader an account of life in a World War II relocation center. It features many interesting historical photographs taken by photographers such as Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams. The author draws from memoirs, diaries, journals, and personal accounts from the people who were held at Manzanar, giving us an idea of what life was like there. Besides the noisy mess halls, crowded barracks, lack of education, there was hope. People tried to retain some normalcy by playing baseball, having dances, and publishing a government-monitored newspaper. This is a part of American history that every American should be aware of!

Extreme Halfpipe Snowboarding Moves by Mary Firestone

Learn about the history of snowboarding, snowboarding slang, how to do tricks, and the safety equipment required to do the tricks! This awesome book includes a lot of photographs.

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science by Joe Fleischman

One day in 1848, railroad foreman Phineas Gage was hard at work when an incorrectly prepared charge of gunpowder rocketed a 3-foot-long iron rod straight through his brain. Phineas remained shockingly calm and coherent on his oxcart ride back into town to get help. Although he survived the gruesome accident for nearly a dozen years, his personality completely changed! Before the accident he was mild mannered and easy going, and after it he was argumentative and vulgar. Fleischman tells Phineas' story and discusses the history of brain research. This is a cool book!

The Complete New York Yankees by Derek Gentile

This hefty volume contains a thorough history of the Yankees, complete with photos and statistics. You can find out everything you want to know about the team and its players through the year 2000. A lot has changed since then, so this book is better for historical research than for contemporary stats.

Red Scarf Girl by Ji Li Jiang

In this fascinating memoir, Ji Li writes about her difficult times as a teenager during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. The memoir captures her fear and confusion during this period of China's history.

The New Way Things Work by David Macauley

Anyone who is interested in how things work will find this book captivating! It has imaginative yet accessible drawings that are accompanied by concise explanations. "The bemused woolly mammoth of the original edition continues to demonstrate his prehistorically simple ideas on such concepts as heat, pressure, fire fighting, sending messages, etc., adding whimsical entries to entertain browsers."- *School Library Journal*

Flies by Shane McEvey

Have you ever wanted to be a fly expert? Written by an entomologist, (a person who studies insects), this book is informative and easy to read. Learn interesting facts about flies and look at close-up pictures of flies. Take the fly quiz at the end of the book and see how much you have learned!

A Dream of Freedom: the Civil Rights Movement From 1954 to 1968 by Diane McWhorter

McWhorter was a sixth-grader, attending a segregated Birmingham, Alabama school in 1963. She writes about what life was like as a white child in the South, and she reflects on the many ways in which both white and black children were involved in the movement. She discusses the courageous young people who desegregated schools throughout the South, the 1,500 Birmingham students who protested and were attacked by police dogs and doused by fire hoses, as well as the white students who protested integration.

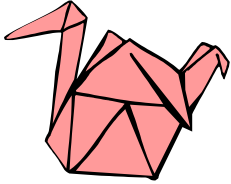


Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser

From the best-selling author of *Fast Food Nation*, Schlosser wrote this book for younger folks, although adults are known to read it. This book is packed with captivating interviews, visual tours, fast food history, recent statistics, and much more!

A Negro League Scrapbook by Carole Boston Weatherford

Because of segregation, African-American baseball players were not allowed to play in the Major Leagues. This remarkable book covers an important era in American sports. Beautiful photographs accompany the text. Weatherford focuses on the extraordinary accomplishments of key figures such as James "Cool Papa" Bell, Satchel Paige, and Josh Gibson.



Feeling Crafty? *Need something to do? Check out these books!*

The World Record Paper Airplane Books by Kan Blackburn and Jeff Lammers

Learn to make a variety of totally awesome paper airplanes!

Making Books That Fly, Fold, Wrap, Hide, Pop Up, Twist & Turn: Books for Kids to Make

by Gwen Diehn

Learn to make a book using this step-by-step guide. You can choose from a variety of styles and make your very own eye-catching book!

Every Kid Needs a Marshmallow Launcher by Candice Elton, Richard Elton

This book is totally cool and is fun for all ages! It shows you a variety of ways to build your own marshmallow launcher and encourages you to be creative and design your own.

Manga Madness by David Okum

Are you interested in drawing Manga characters? If so, this is the book for you! There are over 40 step-by-step lessons that will help you build your drawing skills. Not only are there drawing basics such as perspective, shading, and foreshortening, but you'll learn Japanese terms, character types, and traditions. Draw cool characters such as the Rebellious Hero, Crab Bot, Space Pirate, and Martial Artists!

Ductigami: The Art of the Tape (14 projects to make with duct tape) by Joe Wilson

This book is totally fun! Easy to follow directions explain how to make things such as a duct tape wallet, a cell phone holder, a baseball cap, and much more. Check it out!



Enjoy the books, and have a marvelous summer!

Love,
Maria, Eva, Ragan, and Annie