



## Summer Reading Requirements Entering Seventh Grade 2020-2021

Students are required to read **two** books over the summer. One common book is required, and students should be prepared to take an assessment on the required book and discuss it in depth during the first week of school. The one choice book must come from the rising seventh and eighth-grade reading list. **Assignments are due the first full day of classes.**

### Summer reading report requirements for seventh-grade students:

You may borrow the summer reading books from a library or a friend. All of these books have favorable reviews. **Parents, please supervise your child's choice for the one book; some books may contain adult language and situations.** Please read and follow carefully the requirements for the two books. Your written assignments are due the first full day of class.

Rising seventh-grade students are required to read the **Young Readers Version - I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World** by Malala Yousafzai.

Part 1: Reflection Journal - Consider the following themes and respond to the questions as you read **I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Change the World**. Please answer one question per page, as some questions require more thorough answers than others. You may type your responses or handwrite them. Please make sure all papers are organized and legible when you submit them at the beginning of the year.

#### The Value of Education

- 1) Why does Malala have such a passion for education? Do you share her passion? Why or why not?
- 2) Malala has said, "Let us pick up our book and our pens. They are our most powerful weapon." What do you think of this statement? Do you think education is a weapon?
- 3) According to Malala, why does the Taliban want to prevent girls from being educated? Why do you think the Taliban feels threatened by the education of women?
- 4) How important is it that every child have an opportunity to be educated? What do you think it means to be educated? How important is your own education to you?

## Personal Virtue

- 5) What do you admire about Malala? During the events recounted in the book, she was just a bit younger than you are now. Though her situation is quite different from yours, do you think there is any way that she can be a model to you?
- 6) Early in the book Malala explains what she might do if confronted by a terrorist. She says, "Maybe I'd take off my shoes and hit him, but then I'd think if I did that there would be no difference between me and a terrorist." What is your reaction to Malala's thinking? What do you think is the best way to combat hate?
- 7) What do you think is the source of Malala's strength and virtue?
- 8) How do Malala's parents demonstrate courage? Malala's father encourages Malala to speak up against the Taliban while her mother wishes Malala were less involved. If you were Malala's parent, would you have encouraged her to speak out or would you encourage her to protect herself?
- 9) What is Malala's relationship to each of her parents?
- 10) Do you have the courage to stand up for the principles and opportunities that are most important to you? Do you have a cause about which you care deeply? What is it?

Part II: Annotations - Annotate your free choice book. For this text, you should use these guidelines to help ensure that you read the book closely and annotate it well. Since we will annotate several texts in seventh grade, this will be a very useful exercise for you. It should be clear to your teacher that you have read and thought about the entire book, not just random chunks here and there. You should have comments on nearly every page.

- Make brief comments in the margins. Use any white space available - inside cover, random blank pages in the book.
- Make brief comments between or within lines of the text. Don't be afraid to mark within the text itself. In fact, often, you must!
- Circle or put boxes around key words or phrases, then add a comment explaining why/how those elements are important in the passage. Don't just circle parts of the book without explaining the significance of them.
- Pay attention to topics, patterns, and ideas that resurface in the text. These will lead you to uncovering themes, the central messages, of the book.
- Comment on the actions or development of any key characters. Does the character change? Why? How? In what ways? What is the result of these changes on the character and on others?
- Comment on things that intrigue, impress, inspire, challenge, confuse, and give you epiphanies ('aha moments!').
- Comment on lines/quotations that you think are especially significant, powerful, or meaningful, and explain WHY you think they are so important.
- Summarize key events/plot points in each chapter. Make predictions within and at the end of chapters.
- Note anything you would like to discuss or do not understand.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE GRADE YOU EARN ON YOUR SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS  
WILL BE YOUR FIRST LITERATURE TEST GRADE.**

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Abrahams, Peter	<i>Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery</i>	Mystery	Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth-grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve the murder of an eccentric local woman in her hometown of Echo Falls.
Alexander, Kwame	<i>The Crossover</i>	Realistic Fiction	Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.
Auch, Mary Jane	<i>Ashes of Roses</i>	Historical Fiction	Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911 in the hopes of starting a new life, but after most of her family is sent back to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country and fend for herself and her younger sister.
Avi	<i>Nothing But the Truth</i>	Contemporary Fiction	A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story, and leads to him and his teacher both leaving the school.
Bacigalupi, Paolo	<i>Ship Breaker</i>	Science Fiction	In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell	<i>The Boy Who Dared</i>	Historical Fiction	Novel based on the true story of a Hitler Youth . In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.
Bloor, Edward	<i>Taken</i>	Science Fiction	In 2036 kidnapping rich children has become an industry, but when thirteen-year-old Charity Meyers is taken and held for ransom, she soon discovers that this particular kidnapping is not what it seems.
Carbone, Elias Lynn	<i>Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607</i>	Historical Fiction	Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.
Card, Orson Scott	<i>Ender's Game</i>	Science Fiction.	Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.
Carter, Anne Laurel	<i>The Shepherd's Granddaughter</i>	Contemporary Fiction	Amani's lifelong dream to be a shepherd like her beloved grandfather, Seedo, is devastated to discover the Israelis are going to build a settlement on the family homestead in Palestine, and while her uncle and brother prepare to take a militant stance, help comes from unexpected quarters.
Cleaver, Vera	<i>Where the Lilies Bloom</i>	Contemporary Fiction	In the Great Smoky Mountains region, a fourteen-year-old girl struggles to keep her family together after their father dies.
Cooper, James Fenimore	<i>The Last of the Mohicans</i>	Historical Fiction	A Mohican brave struggles to protect two English girls from an evil Huron during the French and Indian War in upstate New York.
Cooper, Susan	<i>King of Shadows</i>	Fantasy/ Time Travel	While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.
Crichton, Michael	<i>Jurassic Park</i>	Science Fiction	An account of the attempt, through a hair-raising twenty-four hours on a remote jungle island, to avert a global emergency — a crisis triggered by today's rush to commercialize genetic engineering.
Crossley-Holland	<i>The Seeing Stone</i>	Historical Fiction	In late twelfth-century England, a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seem to have many parallels to his own.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Cushman, Karen	<i>The Loud Silence of Francine Green</i>	Historical Fiction	In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.
Deuker, Carl	<i>Heart of a Champion</i>	Sports	Seth faces a strain on his friendship with Jimmy, who is both a baseball champion and something of an irresponsible fool, when Jimmy is kicked off the team.
Dickens, Charles	<i>Oliver Twist</i>	Historical Fiction	A young orphan boy in nineteenth-century England lives in the squalid surroundings of a workhouse until he becomes involved with a gang of thieves.
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Homes</i>	Mystery	A collection of Sherlock Holmes mystery adventures, including "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Red-headed League," and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band."
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	Mystery	Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.
Dumas, Alexandre	<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i>	Adventure/Action	Presents the classic novel by Alexandre Dumas about Edmond Dantes, a young sailor who is falsely imprisoned, escapes, and assumes a new identity on the island of Monte Cristo.
Flanagan, John	<i>Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan</i>	Adventure/Action	When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.
Fleischman, Paul	<i>Whirligig</i>	Contemporary Fiction	While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement.
Freitas, Donna	<i>The Possibilities of Sainthood</i>	Contemporary Fiction	While regularly petitioning the Vatican to make her the first living saint, fifteen-year-old Antonia Labella prays to assorted patron saints for everything from help with preparing the family's fig trees for a Rhode Island winter to getting her first kiss from the right boy.
Gaiman, Neil	<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Fantasy	The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.
Garrison, Jennifer	<i>Gilda Joyce: Psychic Investigator</i>	Mystery	During the summer before ninth grade, intrepid Gilda Joyce invites herself to the San Francisco mansion of distant cousin Lester Splinter and his thirteen-year-old daughter, where she uses her purported psychic abilities and detective skills to solve the mystery of the mansion's boarded-up tower.
Gidwitz, Adam	<i>The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog</i>	Fantasy	"Crossing paths at an inn, thirteenth-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee, and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound, the three of whom join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution".
Gleitzman, Morris	<i>Once</i>	Historical Fiction	After living in a Catholic orphanage for nearly four years, a naive Jewish boy runs away and embarks on a journey across Nazi-occupied Poland to find his parents. First in a series.
Gratz, Alan	<i>Refugee</i>	Historical Fiction	"Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together"-
Grisham, John	<i>Theodore Boone : Kid Lawyer</i>	Mystery	Thirteen-year-old Theodore Boone, who knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg, finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about a cold-blooded killer.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Grove, S. E.	<i>The Glass Sentence</i>	Fantasy	In 1891, in a world transformed by 1799's Great Disruption--when all of the continents were flung into different time periods--thirteen-year-old Sophia Tims and her friend Theo go in search of Sophia's uncle, Shadrack Elli, Boston's foremost cartologer, who has been kidnapped.
Gwaltney, Doris.	<i>Homefront</i>	Historical Fiction	Margaret Ann Motley has always wanted a room of her very own, but when her English cousin Courtney moves in with Margaret's family to escape the blitz, Margaret loses her only chance of having her own room and begins to resent Courtney, until she realizes how difficult Courtney's own life has been.
Hamilton, Virginia	<i>House of Dies Drear</i>	Historical Fiction	Thomas Small and his family move into an old house that was once used as part of the Underground Railroad and soon realize that the house, where two fugitive slaves and Dies Drear himself had been killed by bounty hunters, continues to hold many secrets.
Hesse, Karen	<i>Out of the Dust</i>	Historical Fiction	In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
Higson, Charlie	<i>Silverfin</i>	Adventure/Action	Young James Bond, a student at the Eton boarding school in the 1930s, travels to his aunt's Scotland estate for the Easter holidays where he becomes caught up in investigating the disappearance of a local boy, a crime allegedly linked to a madman with a plot for global domination.
Hilton, James	<i>Goodbye, Mr. Chips</i>	Historical Fiction	A retired teacher reminisces about his years at Brookfield school, the thousands of boys he taught, his happy marriage, and about the comic and tragic events in his life.
Hinton, S.E.	<i>Taming the Star Runner</i>	Contemporary Fiction	Sent to live with his uncle after a violent confrontation with his stepfather, sixteen-year-old Travis, an aspiring writer, finds life in a small Oklahoma town confining until he meets an eighteen-year-old horse trainer named Casey.
Hinton, S.E.	<i>Rumble Fish</i>	Contemporary Fiction	A junior high school boy idolizes his older brother, the coolest, toughest guy in the neighborhood, and wants to be just like him.
Horowitz, Anthony	<i>Point Blank (Alex Rider series)</i>	Adventure/Action	Alex, a fourteen-year-old spy, has been assigned by the British MI6 to investigate a series of mysterious deaths. He ends up in a boarding school in the Swiss Alps, and finds many strange things are happening to the students.
Hunt, Irene	<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	Historical Fiction	Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.
Jacques, Brian	<i>Castaways of the Flying Dutchman</i>	Fantasy	In 1620, a boy and his dog are rescued from the doomed ship, Flying Dutchman, by an angel who guides them in travelling the world, eternally helping those in great need.
Kadohate, Cynthia	<i>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam</i>	Historical Fiction	A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.
Keith, Harold	<i>Rifles for Watie</i>	Historical Fiction	The struggles and hardships faced by Jeff Bussey on his 300-mile escape route during the Civil War.
Koertge, Ronald	<i>Shakespeare Makes the Playoffs</i>	Contemporary Fiction	Fourteen-year-old Kevin Boland, poet and first baseman, is torn between his cute girlfriend--Mira--and Amy, who is funny, plays Chopin on the piano, and is also a poet.
Kelly, Jacqueline	<i>The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate</i>	Historical Fiction	Sequel to: The evolution of Calpurnia Tate. "In rural Texas in 1900, when a storm blows change into town in the form of a visiting veterinarian, twelve-year-old Callie discovers a life and a vocation she desperately wants. But with societal expectations as they are, she will need all her wits and courage to realize her dreams".

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
L'Engle, Madeline	<i>A Ring of Endless Light</i>	Contemporary Fiction	During the summer her grandfather is dying of leukemia and death seems all around, 15-year-old Vicky finds comfort with the pod of dolphins with which she has been doing research.
Lasky, Kathryn	<i>Ashes</i>	Historical Fiction	In 1932 Berlin, thirteen-year-old Gaby Schramm witnesses the beginning of Hitler's rise to power, as soldiers become ubiquitous, her beloved literature teacher starts wearing a jeweled swastika pin, and the family's dear friend, Albert Einstein, leaves the country while Gaby's parents secretly bury his books and papers in their small yard.
Lawrence, Iain	<i>The Wreckers (trilogy)</i>	Historical Fiction	Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the Cornish coastal town where they are stranded.
Lewis, Richard	<i>The Killing Sea</i>	Historical Fiction	In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where Ruslan hopes to find his father and Sarah seeks a doctor for her brother.
Lisyte, Robert	<i>The Brave</i>	Sports	Having left the Indian reservation for the streets of New York, seventeen-year-old boxer Sonny Bear tries to harness his inner rage by training with Alfred Brooks, who has left the sport to become a policeman.
Lupica, Mile	<i>Heat</i>	Sports	Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.
Malory, Sir Thomas	<i>Le Morte d' Arthur</i>	Fantasy	The standard account of King Arthur and his knights, the story of the dream of the Round Table, knightly honor, and a just earthly government, all dissolved through human frailty.
Mazer, Norma	<i>After the Rain</i>	Contemporary Fiction	After discovering her grandfather is dying, fifteen-year-old Rachel gets to know him better than ever before and finds the experience bittersweet.
McCormick, Patricia	<i>Black Duck</i>	Historical Fiction	Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend's family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.
McKissack, Pat	<i>The Clone Codes</i>	Science Fiction	On the run from a bounty hunter who arrested her mother for being part of a secret society devoted to freeing clones, thirteen-year-old Leanna learns amazing truths about herself and her family as she is forced to consider the value of freedom and what it really means to be human in 2170 America.
Mebas, Scott	<i>Gods of Manhattan</i>	Fantasy	When thirteen-year-old Rory discovers a spirit world alongside his contemporary New York City that is filled with fantastical creatures, people from the city's colorful past--who have become gods and goddesses--choose Rory to perform a dangerous mission.
Meyer, Carolyn	<i>Mary, Bloody Mary</i>	Historical Fiction	Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid-sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter of King Henry VIII.
Mikaelson, Ben	<i>Touching Spirit Bear</i>	Contemporary Fiction	After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Miller, Sarah Elizabeth	<i>Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller</i>	Historical Fiction	At age twenty-one, partially-blind, lonely but spirited Annie Sullivan travels from Massachusetts to Alabama to try and teach six-year-old Helen Keller, deaf and blind since age two, self-discipline and communication skills. Includes historical notes and timeline.
Morpurgo, Michael	<i>Listen to the Moon</i>	Historical fiction	Tells the story of Merry, who was traveling on the ship Lusitania to visit her father who is recovering from a war injury, and Alfie, who finds her on an uninhabited island after the ship sinks.
Napoli, Donna Jo	<i>Hunger: a Tale of Courage.</i>	Historical Fiction	In the autumn of 1846 in Ireland, twelve-year-old Lorraine and her family struggle to survive during the Irish potato famine, but when Lorraine meets Miss Susannah, the daughter of the wealthy English landowner who owns Lorraine's family's farm, they form an unlikely friendship that they must keep secret due to the deep cultural divide between their two families.
Nix, Garth	<i>Mister Monday series</i>	Fantasy	Arthur Penhaligon, destined to die at a young age, is saved by a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock, but his survival invokes the wrath of the mysterious Mister Monday who will stop at nothing to get the key back, and Arthur is forced into a desperate quest to unravel the secrets of the key and discover his true fate.
Nix, Garth	<i>Sabriel (Abhorsen series)</i>	Fantasy	Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.
Oppel, Kenneth	<i>Airborn</i>	Fantasy	Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.
Paolnii, Christopher	<i>Eragon</i>	Fantasy	In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
Park, Linda Sue	<i>When My Name was Keoko</i>	Historical Fiction	With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Jacob Have I Loved</i>	Historical Fiction	Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.
Paterson, Katherine	<i>Bread and Roses, Too</i>	Historical Fiction	Twelve-year-old Rosa and thirteen-year-old Jake form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.
Patterson, James	<i>The Dangerous Days of Daniel X</i>	Science Fiction	Fifteen-year-old Daniel has followed in his parents' footsteps as the Alien Hunter, exterminating beings on The List of Alien Outlaws on Terra Firma, but when he faces his first of the top ten outlaws, the very existence of Earth and another planet are at stake.
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Canyons</i>	Historical Fiction	Finding a skull on a camping trip in the canyons outside El Paso, Texas, Brennan becomes involved with the fate of a young Apache Indian who lived in the late 1800s.
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Woods Runner</i>	Historical Fiction	From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Native Americans who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Peck, Richard	<i>A Year Down Yonder</i>	Historical Fiction	Sequel to: A long way from Chicago. During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.
Pfeffer, Susan Beth	<i>Life as We Knew It</i>	Dystopian	Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
Prattchet, Terry	<i>The Wee Free Men</i>	Fantasy	Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue toughs, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland.
Pullman, Philip	<i>Golden Compass</i>	Fantasy	Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.
Reeve, Philip	<i>Fever Crumb</i>	Science Fiction/ Steampunk	Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an engineer although females in the future London, England, are not believed capable of rational thought, but at age fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present.
Rinaldi, Ann	<i>A Stitch in Time</i>	Historical Fiction	Trying to hold the family together after her mother's death, Hannah worries about her sense of purpose when her father returns to the sea and her younger siblings become self-sufficient, and Hannah decides to make a wonderful quilt.
Rinaldi, Ann	<i>Amelia's War</i>	Historical Fiction	As the Civil War rages, Amelia's Maryland town is beset by divisions. Even she and her best friend Josh disagree. Amelia vows not to take sides, until the Confederate troops march into town...led by Josh's uncle.
Riordan, Rick	<i>The Red Pyramid</i>	Fantasy	Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.
Sachar, Louis	<i>The Cardturner</i>	Contemporary Fiction	When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative. Includes appendix by Syd Fox with information about bridge.
Salisbury, Graham	<i>Eyes of the Emperor</i>	Historical Fiction	Following orders from the United States Army, several young Japanese American men train K-9 units to hunt Asians during World War II.
Schmidt, Gary D.	<i>Okay For Now</i>	Historical Fiction	Fourteen-year-old Doug Swietek faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.
Scott, Sir Walter	<i>Ivanhoe</i>	Historical Fiction	Relates the adventures of the Saxon knight Ivanhoe in 1194, the year of Richard the Lion-Hearted's return from the Third Crusade.
Sheth, Kashmira	<i>Keeping Corner</i>	Historical Fiction	In India in the 1940s, 13-year old Leela's happy, spoiled childhood ends when her husband since age 9, whom she barely knows, dies, leaving her a widow whose only hope of happiness could come from Mahatma Ghandi's social and political reforms.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Sonnenblick, Jordan	<i>After ever after</i>	Contemporary Fiction	Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.
Sperry, Armstrong	<i>Call It Courage</i>	Adventure/Action	Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Treasure Island</i>	Adventure/Action	While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of an inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune. Includes review questions.
Standish, Ali	<i>The Ethan I was Before</i>	Realistic Fiction	"Ethan just wants to escape from painful memories of the accident that cost him everything. When he and his family move from Boston to the small seaside town of Palm Knot, Georgia, he doesn't know what he'll find there. The last thing he expects is to make a new friend. That is, until he meets Coralee, a girl with a big personality and even bigger stories, a girl who may just give Ethan the second chance he needs.
Stoker, Bram	<i>Dracula</i>	Classic	Having discovered the double identity of the wealthy Transylvanian nobleman Count Dracula, a small group of people vow to rid the world of the evil vampire.
Taylor, Mildred	<i>Let the Circle Be Unbroken</i>	Historical Fiction	Sequel to: Roll of thunder, hear my cry. Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need.
Thompson, Kate	<i>The New Policeman</i>	Fantasy	Fifteen-year-old musician J.J. Liddy leaves his small, Irish town and travels to the land of the fairies to search for time so he can give it to his busy mother, but when he gets there, he discovers that the inhabitants are in trouble and learns about his family's secret history.
Thompson, Kate	<i>The Last of the High Kings</i>	Fantasy	When eleven-year-old Jenny Liddy, in turmoil over learning that she is a changeling, makes a deal with a devil creature, she endangers the human race but her own cleverness, her human and fairy fathers, and the last of Ireland's High Kings help to make things right.
Tolkein, J.R.R.	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Fantasy	Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.
Tolkein, J.R.R.	<i>Lord of the Rings (trilogy)</i>	Fantasy	Follows the Companions of the Ring as they set out to destroy the Ring of Power and check the power of the evil Sauron.
Updale, Eleanor	<i>Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?</i>	Historical Fiction	In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.
Van Draanen Wendelin	<i>Flipped</i>	Contemporary Fiction	In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
Verne, Jules	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>	Science Fiction	Jules Verne's classic nineteenth-century science-fiction tale about a French professor and his companions who are trapped aboard a futuristic submarine with a mad sea captain and come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.
Wells, H.G.	<i>War of the Worlds</i>	Science Fiction	Presents H. G. Wells's classic story in which Earth is invaded by hostile, technologically superior aliens from Mars.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Fiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE	NOTES
Westerfeld, Scott	<i>Leviathan</i>	Science Fiction/ Steampunk	In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically engineered beasts.
White, T.H.	<i>The Sword in the Stone</i>	Fantasy	A retelling of the Arthurian legend.
Wilder, Thornton	<i>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</i>	Historical Fiction	A tiny footbridge in Peru breaks, and five people hurtle to their deaths. For Brother Juniper, a humble monk who witnesses the catastrophe, the question is: Why those five?
Yancey, Richard	<i>The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp</i>	Adventure/Action	Through a series of dangerous and violent misadventures, teenage loser Alfred Kropp rescues King Arthur's legendary sword Excalibur from the forces of evil.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Nonfiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	NOTES
Aronson, Marc	<i>Trapped</i>	Provides a detailed account of rescue efforts to save 39 miners who got trapped in a copper-gold mine in San Jose, Chile; examines the psychological, physical, and environmental factors influencing the course of the rescue and describes the efforts of experts from around the world — drillers, astronauts, submarine specialists, and others — who came together in response to the crisis.
Armstrong, Jennifer	<i>Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World</i>	Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey to reach inhabited land.
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell	<i>Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow</i>	A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell	<i>They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group</i>	Documents the history and origin of the Ku Klux Klan from its beginning in Pulaski, Tennessee, and provides personal accounts, congressional documents, diaries, and more.
Bascomb, Neal	<i>The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazis.</i>	Presents the history of the group of spies, Holocaust survivors, and lawyers who pursued Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi war criminal, for fifteen years in order to bring him to justice for his leadership role in the killing of thousands of Jews during World War II.
Blumenthal, Karen	<i>Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition</i>	Chronicles Prohibition in the United States, the period from 1920 to 1933 during which it was illegal to sell or drink alcohol, discussing how what began as a movement to heal social ills became a burden to ordinary citizens and a boon to criminals.
Bodanis, David	<i>E=mc2: The Biography of the world's Most Famous Equation.</i>	In this book, David Bodanis writes the "biography" of one of the greatest scientific discoveries in history--that the realms of energy and matter are inescapably linked--and, through his skill as a writer and teacher, he turns a seemingly impenetrable theory into a dramatic human achievement and an uncommonly good story.
Bowers, Rick	<i>Superman Versus The Ku Klux Klan: The True Story of How the Iconic Superhero Battled the Men of Hate</i>	Presents a group of interconnected stories that come together in the 1947 collision of the Superman Radio Show and the Ku Klux Klan, following the two Cleveland teenagers who invented Superman as a defender of the powerless, the people who made Superman a media sensation, and the club that spread fear and hate.
Burns, Loree Griffin	<i>Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion</i>	Describes the work of a man who tracks trash as it travels great distances by way of ocean currents.
Caputo, Philip	<i>10,000 days of Thunder: a History of the Vietnam War</i>	Presents a collection of illustrated photographs and maps depicting the war in Vietnam from its beginning under French control to the fall of Saigon in 1975, and contains accounts from soldiers and civilians, profiles of those involved, and a look at the role of women on the battlefield.
Caputo, Philip	<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma: the Secrets Behind What You Eat. Young Readers ed.</i>	Examines the origins of the different food chains that have sustained humans throughout history, discussing how certain foods and cuisines have become a popular part of people's daily diets.
Carmon, Irin and Shana Knizhnik	<i>Notorious RBG; The life and times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i>	Young readers' edition. Notorious -- Been in this game for years -- I got a story to tell -- Stereotypes of a lady misunderstood -- Don't let 'em hold you down, reach for the stars -- Real love -- My team supreme -- Your words just hypnotize me -- I just love your flashy ways -- But I just can't quit. Profiles the life of feminist pioneer and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her fight for gender equality and civil rights.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Nonfiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	NOTES
DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami	<i>A Black Hole is Not a Hole</i>	What is a black hole? Where do they come from? How were they discovered? Can we visit one? Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano takes readers on a ride through the galaxies (ours, and others), answering these questions and many more about the phenomenon known as a black hole.
Farrell, Mary Cronk	<i>Pure Grit: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific.</i>	Chronicles the experiences of American nurses who served in the Philippines during World War II.
Fleischman, John	<i>Phineas Gage</i>	The true story of Phineas Gage, whose brain had been pierced by an iron rod in 1848, and who survived and became a case study in how the brain functions.
Fleischman, Sid	<i>The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West.</i>	A narrative account of the childhood and youth of nineteenth-century writer Mark Twain. Includes period engravings, newspaper cartoons, and black-and-white photographs.
French, Michael, adapt.	<i>Flags of our Fathers (adapted)</i>	Presents an account of the Marines who came together during the battle of Iwo Jima to raise the American flag in a moment that has been immortalized in one of the most famous photographs of World War II.
Giblin, James Cross	<i>Good Brother, Bad Brother: the Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth.</i>	Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his actor brother John Wilkes Booth, describing the differences between the two men, chronicling John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and examining the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward.
Goldsmith, Connie	<i>Superbugs Strike Back: When Antibiotics Fail</i>	Explains how the development and over-use of antibiotics has led to new superbugs that are resistant to common medical treatments and pose a greater threat to human health
Gore, Albert	<i>An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming (adapted)</i>	An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously.
Hersey, John	<i>Hiroshima</i>	An account of the dropping of an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, from the viewpoint of the people who lived through it.
Hickam, Homer	<i>October Sky</i>	Originally published as <i>Rocket Boys</i> . Homer Hickam, the introspective son of a mine superintendent and a mother determined to get him out of Coalwood, West Virginia forever, nurtures a dream to send rockets into outer space -- an ambition that changes his life and the lives of everyone living in Coalwood in 1957.
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken : an Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive: adapted for Young Adults</i>	A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.
Holcomb, Steven	<i>But Now I See</i>	Relates the life and athletic career of Steven Holcomb, an Olympic bobsledder who hid his encroaching blindness from his coach, sled mates, and the public until he finally told his coach, who led him to a revolutionary treatment that restored his eyesight to 20/20.
Houston, Jeanne	<i>Farewell to Manzanar: a True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After World War II Internment</i>	Biography of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston relating her experiences of living at the Manzanar internment camp during World War II and how it has influenced her life

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Nonfiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	NOTES
Jarrow, Gail	<i>Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary</i>	Provides an overview of the search for Mary Mallon, also known as Typhoid Mary, who is thought to have caused the spread of typhoid fever, a disease spread by bacteria in food and water, in New York in 1909.
Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	The author details how he ignored naysayers and was able to bring electricity and running water to his Malawian village when he built a makeshift windmill out of scrap metal and spare parts.
Kidder, Tracy	<i>Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World</i>	Chronicles the life of Paul Farmer, focusing on his efforts to diagnose and cure infectious diseases and to bring modern medicine to the countries and people who need them most.
Levine, Ellen	<i>Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance</i>	An account of people in Denmark who risked their lives to protect and rescue their Jewish neighbors from the Nazis during World War II.
Martin, Russell	<i>The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair.</i>	Examines the true story of a lock of hair clipped from Beethoven's head at the time of his death in 1827, its transport to a safe house in Denmark in 1943, auction in 1994, and scientist's ability to finally determine the cause of the composer's death.
McClafferty, Carla Killough	<i>Fourth Down and Inches: Concussions and Football's Make-Or-Break Moments</i>	Contains an in-depth examination of the head and brain injuries that are on the rise among football players.
Menzel, Peter	<i>What the World Eats</i>	A collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Ecuador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a week's worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country.
Montgomery, Sy	<i>Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World</i>	When Temple Grandin was born, her parents knew that she was different. Years later she was diagnosed with autism. While Temple's doctor recommended a hospital, her mother believed in her. Today, Dr. Temple Grandin is a scientist and professor of animal science at Colorado State University. Her world-changing career revolutionized the livestock industry. As an advocate for autism, Temple uses her experience as an example of the unique contributions that autistic people can make. Temple went to school instead.
Mowat, Farley	<i>Never Cry Wolf</i>	The author reports his observations of the Keewatin Lands northwest of the Hudson Bay, and the caribou and wolf populations living in the region; includes an afterword section with assorted writings about wolves.
Murphy, Jim	<i>American Plague</i>	Provides an account of the yellow fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia in 1793, discussing the chaos that erupted when people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services, and examining efforts by physicians, the Free African Society, and others to cure and care for the sick.
Murphy, Jim	<i>The Crossing: How George Washington saved the American Revolution</i>	The commander -- The invasion -- The attack -- The escape -- The retreat -- The crossing -- The old fox -- The painting. A narrative prose that details George Washington's transformation from a farmer to a military general and describes how he led the Americans against the British.
Murphy, Jim	<i>Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure</i>	This is the story of a killer that has been striking people down for thousands of years: tuberculosis. After centuries of ineffective treatments, the microorganism that causes TB was identified, and the cure was thought to be within reach—but drug-resistant varieties continue to plague and panic the human race.
Murphy, Jim	<i>Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting.</i>	Tells the story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas.

OLA Catholic School Summer Reading - Grades 7 and 8 Nonfiction List

AUTHOR	TITLE	NOTES
Nathan, Amy	<i>Count On Us: American Women in the Military</i>	Reviews the history of American women's involvement in the Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War to the present.
Nelson, Pete	<i>Left For Dead: a Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis</i>	Recalls the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, the Navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivors set the record straight fifty-five years later.
Sandler, Martin	<i>The Dust Bowl Through the Lens : How Photography Revealed and Helped Remedy a National Disaster</i>	A collection of historic photographs that capture the devastation that plagued the Dust Bowl and the courage and enduring spirit of the people who tried to save their homes and livelihood during the era.
Sheinkin, Steve	<i>Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i>	Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.
Sheinkin, Steve	<i>Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team</i>	"A great American sport and Native American history come together in this true story of how Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner created the legendary Carlisle Indians football team".
Spurlock, Mprgan	<i>Don't Eat This Book: Fast Food and the Supersizing of America</i>	Presents a comprehensive study on the effects of fast food on American health, and examines school lunch programs, marketing strategies by fast food restaurants, the decline in physical education, and the rise in obesity, hypertension, and diabetes, especially in children.
Stone, Tanya Lee	<i>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream.</i>	Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional astronauts.
Swanson, James L.	<i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</i>	Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.
Thimmesh, Catherine	<i>Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon</i>	Chronicles the Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.
Wagenen, Maya Van	<i>Popular: A Memoir: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek</i>	Presents a memoir of a one year social experiment in which teen author Maya Van Wagenen followed a 1950's popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.
Walker, Sally	<i>Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H. L. Hunley</i>	Tells the story of the "H. L. Hunley," the Confederate submarine that in 1864 became the first to ever sink an enemy ship but lay missing on the ocean floor for more than a century, describing its creation, its discovery, skeletons and objects found onboard, and facial reconstructions of several crew members by forensic anthropologists.
Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	"The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South."