

SUMMER READING

As **Fourth Grade** comes to a close, we can't stress enough the importance of summer reading. Charlotte Mason reminds us that, "It is in the lap of the parent that a child first explores the universe of the printed page. Children of all ages must be immersed in the world of literature." -*When Children Love to Learn*

Your soon to be fifth grader may be getting too big for your lap, but they are not too big to share special moments reading together. Parents and children have a multitude of enticements competing for their attention. Consider what you wish to instill in your child this summer. All too often, children plead for access to the digital market with its adrenal boosting sights and sounds. The challenge is guiding children to recognize the life-giving beauty of a story. In order to cultivate virtuous character, build background knowledge, and nurture a love of reading, we must spend time reading quality literature. Finding precious time to read to and with your child creates the perfect pathway to enter the world of living books and relish all of the mysteries, surprises, and wonders they contain.

Our choices change who we are and how we live. How we spend our time influences our character. Open the books, read beyond just this list, and let us give to our children one of the best gifts they could receive—time spent with you, cultivating a life-long love of reading. Review the suggested choices and discuss with your child which books might be the best book choices and then enjoy the reading journey by asking lots of questions about the ideas each book presents.

Rising 5th Graders: Summer Reading List

Please have your child read widely and often both with you and independently! Students are required to read a **minimum of two fiction books** from the following list, but we encourage them to read more. The non-fiction suggestions provide inspiration and background knowledge for upcoming science and history topics.

Fiction: (Choose a minimum of two) <i>Snow Treasure</i> by Marie McSwigan <i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry <i>Prince Caspian</i> by C. S. Lewis <i>Mr. Lincoln's Drummer</i> by G. Clifton Wisler <i>Freewater</i> by Amina Luqman-Dawson <i>A Place to Hang the Moon</i> by Kate Albus <i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> by Avi	Non-Fiction Suggestions: plants, chemistry, astronomy, Renaissance, Russia, Westward Expansion, Maya, Inca and Aztec Civilizations, The Civil War
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"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."

— **Maya Angelou**

