

# The Importance of **SUMMER** READING

We all know what the research says about the reading skills children who read often and widely in the summer maintain when they return in the fall. But how often do we consider the cultivation of wisdom and virtue gained by children who become readers?

Today, parents and children have a multitude of enticements competing for their attention. All too often, children plead for access to the digital market with its adrenal boosting sights and sounds. The challenge is guiding children to recognizing the life-giving beauty of a story. In order to nurture a love of reading, parents must have a vision for their children.

Consider what you wish to instill regarding summer. What habits of the good life will your child be trained in this summer? What habits of thinking and acting will influence a summer of wonder? What ideas will be cultivated through the books they read? How will you build a desire to escape into a book and relish its mysteries and surprises?

Our choices change who we are and how we live. How we spend our time influence our character. Open the books, read beyond just this list, and let us rise to be the persons we were intended to be.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Please have your child read widely and often both with you and independently! Please read a **minimum of two fiction books** from the following list so your incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grader will be prepared for the class activities in August. The non-fiction books are optional and only the beginning of what you can read.

### Fiction:

*Snow Treasure* by Marie McSwigan  
*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry  
*Bud Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Prince Caspian* by C. S. Lewis  
*Mr. Lincoln's Drummer* by G. Clifton Wisler

### Non-Fiction:

plants, chemistry, astronomy, Renaissance, Russia, Westward Expansion, the Civil War

“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**

