

Saint John the Evangelist School
Summer Reading List 2025
Students Entering Grade 5

Students, you will read three books this summer. Two titles will be chosen from one list, and one title from a second list. You are to complete a written report on each of the three books. The reports are due in class the Friday of the first week of school. You may choose from the book report formats provided. You can use the same format for all three reports, or choose different formats.

Choose two titles.

Stella by Starlight - Sharon Draper
Out of My Mind – Sharon Draper
When Life Gives You O.J. – Erica Perl
Merci Suarez Changes – Meg Medina
City of Ember – Jeanne DuPrau
Regarding the Fountain – Kate Klise
Long Way to Chicago – Richard Peck
The Dragon in the Sock Drawer – Kate Klimo
Dead End in Norvelt-Jack Gantos
One Crazy Summer-Williams-Garcia
My Side of the Mountain-Jean Craighead George
How Tia Lola Came to (Visit) Stay-Julia Alvarez
Esperanza Rising-Pam Munoz Ryan
Love That Dog-Sharon Creech
Song for a Whale-Lynne Kelly
Things Seen from Above-Shelley Pearsall
Finding Langston-Lisa Cline-Ransome

Choose one title.

Small Steps-Kehret
Dear Levi-Elvira Woodruff
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes-Coerr
Countdown-Deborah Wiles
Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert-Marc Aronson
The Watsons Go to Birmingham-Christopher Paul Curtis
Where the Red Fern Grows-Wilson Rawls
Brown Girl Dreaming-Jacqueline Woodson
Barbed Wire Baseball-Marissa Moss
Lifeboat 12-Susan Hood
True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle-Avi
Inside Out and Back Again-Thanh Lai
Night Divided-Jennifer Nielsen
Projekt 1065-Gratz
Shoeless Joe and Me or Honus and Me-Dan Gutman

BOOK REPORTS

You are to complete a book report for each of the books. I have included some ideas on ways to report on the books. You may write a book report following the classic format, or try one of the other ideas. You may choose a different kind of report for each book if you would like.

CLASSIC FORMAT

The classic format usually includes:

Introductory paragraph: In the first paragraph, include the author, title, and a one or two sentence description of the idea of the book.

Plot summary: Describe the plot in one or two additional paragraphs. Your teacher will be looking for references to the elements of the book like character, setting, and theme.

Analysis: This is the meat of your book report and your chance to give your own opinion and review of the book in two or three paragraphs. What makes it believable? Why is it funny? How is it disturbing? What is surprising? Was there an exceptional character? Could you relate to any of the characters or the action in the story?

Conclusion: Finish up with a short paragraph summarizing your review.

BOOK REVIEWER

Pretend that you are a book reviewer for a news service for kids. Your assignment is to report, in an enthusiastic manner, on the book of your choice. Summarize your book and give your opinion as the closing comment.

PROBLEM CHARACTER

Report about a character in your book who causes problems. **Write a short summary** of the book. **After you have completed your summary, describe** how this character looks and acts. **What problems** does he or she cause? What effect does this character have on other characters in the book? **How does the story end** for the difficult character?

TEST OR TRIAL

In early myths and legends, the main character often had to pass a test or trial. Does the main character in your book have to prove himself or herself through a test of some kind? If so, what is the test? What personal qualities, talents, or skills are needed for success? **Make sure that you fully explain how the quality, talent, or skill has helped the character prove himself/herself.** Use examples from the book to support your explanation. Please **include a short summary** of the book at the beginning of your report.

STORY MAP

Make a story map. Begin by **drawing** the setting of your book. The setting could be a country or just the inside of a house. On your map, **show the places** where major characters have lived or visited and where important events and meetings have taken place. **Make symbols** to stand for characters, events, and special places. **Prepare a legend** to explain these symbols. On the back of your map, **write a summary** of the book. Your summary should be one-half to three-fourths of a page.