



5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2026-2027

Dear Charleston Catholic Families,

The upper school students will be participating in the Battle of the Books for the 2026-2027 school year. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage students in independent reading and friendly competition. It is important that students choose books from the lists below **that are within their Lexile range**. Please refer to your student's MAP reading scores to determine their Lexile range. It is located on the MAP scores sheet under Language Arts: Reading at the bottom. It is highlighted in gray.

5th Grade: Read **two** books from the list entitled "Christian School Book List Grades 3-5". Students should be able to recall the characters, plot, conflicts, and themes from both books.

6th-8th Grade: Read **three** books from the list entitled "Christian School Book List Grades 6-8."

Beta Club Students, Grades 6th-8th: Students who are in Beta Club must read **four** total books from the list.

Christian School Book List Grades 3-5

Author	Title	Lexile Level
Babbitt, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting	770L
Brown, Peter	Wild Robot	740L
Bulla, Clyde	The Paint Brush Kid	700L
Catling, Patrick Skene	The Chocolate Touch	680L
Clements, Andrew	Frindle	830L
Erickson, John R.	The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog	860L

Flemming, Candace	Enigma Girls	1150L
Freedom, Russel	Out of Darkness	980L
Graydon, Shari	Made You Look; How Advertising Works	1110L
Hale, Shannon	The Princess Academy	890L
Henry, Marguerite	Benjamin West and His Cat Grimalkin	950L
Johnson, Lois Walfrid	Raiders from the Sea	760L
Leppard, Lois Gladys	Mandie and the Secret Tunnel #1	730L
Lucado, Max	You Are Special	AD570L
Mull, Brandon	Candy Shop War	710L
O'Dell, Scott	Island of the Blue Dolphins	1000L
Page, Robin & Jenkins, Steve	How to Clean a Hippopotamus	1030L
Peterson, John	The Littles	660L
Robinson, Barbara	The Best School Year Ever	950L
Skead, Robert	Patriots, Redcoats & Spies	890L

Book Descriptions:

- **Tuck Everlasting** — When Winnie Foster discovers a mysterious family who can live forever, she must decide whether eternal life is truly a gift—or a curse. This timeless story explores friendship, freedom, and the beauty of living each moment fully.

- **The Wild Robot** — After a robot named Roz washes ashore on a wild island, she must learn to survive among animals who fear her. Filled with adventure and heart, this story shows how kindness and courage can bridge even the biggest differences.
- **The Paint Brush Kid** — A young boy's ordinary summer changes when he meets a mysterious artist with a magical paintbrush. This imaginative story celebrates creativity, determination, and believing in yourself.
- **The Chocolate Touch** — John Midas loves chocolate more than anything—until everything he touches turns into it! This funny modern twist on the King Midas legend teaches an important lesson about greed and self-control.
- **Frindle** — Nick Allen's creative idea to invent a new word quickly spirals into a nationwide phenomenon. Packed with humor and cleverness, this story shows the surprising power of words and imagination.
- **The Original Adventures of Hank the Cowdog** — Hank believes he is the fearless head of ranch security, but his adventures often lead to hilarious trouble. This entertaining mystery is full of humor, action, and unforgettable characters.
- **Enigma Girls** — During World War II, brilliant young women secretly worked to crack enemy codes at Bletchley Park. This fascinating true story reveals courage, intelligence, and the hidden heroes behind wartime victories.
- **Out of Darkness** — Through powerful photographs and firsthand accounts, this nonfiction book tells the story of the Holocaust and the resilience of those who endured it. It is a moving reminder of both humanity's cruelty and strength.
- **Made You Look: How Advertising Works** — Discover the secrets behind advertisements and how companies persuade people to buy products. This eye-opening book helps readers become smarter, more thoughtful consumers.
- **Princess Academy** — Miri never imagined life beyond her mountain village until she is chosen to attend a special academy for future princesses. Filled with friendship, courage, and adventure, this fantasy tale proves true strength comes from within.
- **Benjamin West and His Cat Grimalkin** — Young Benjamin West dreams of becoming an artist despite the doubts of others. Inspired by the real-life painter, this story celebrates perseverance, talent, and following your calling.
- **Raiders from the Sea** — Set in the 1700s, this exciting adventure follows Libby Norstad as she faces danger, kidnappers, and life-changing choices along the coast of Maine. A thrilling historical story full of courage and faith.
- **Mandie and the Secret Tunnel** — After her uncle's death, Mandie discovers mysterious clues that lead her to a hidden tunnel and long-buried family secrets. This fast-paced mystery blends adventure, history, and courage.
- **You Are Special** — In the village of Wemmicks, people spend their days giving each other stars and dots based on appearance and talent. This touching story reminds readers that their true worth comes from being loved just as they are.

- **The Candy Shop War** — Four friends discover that magical candy can grant incredible powers—but there’s a dangerous catch. Packed with action and surprises, this fantasy adventure is both exciting and imaginative.
- **Island of the Blue Dolphins** — Left alone on an island for years, Karana must survive using her courage, intelligence, and determination. Based on a true story, this unforgettable novel celebrates resilience and the bond between humans and nature.
- **How to Clean a Hippopotamus** — Explore the fascinating partnerships between animals in nature, from birds that clean crocodiles’ teeth to tiny fish that help sharks. This colorful nonfiction book reveals the surprising teamwork found in the wild.
- **The Littles** — The Littles are tiny people who secretly live inside the walls of ordinary homes, borrowing human objects to survive. Their clever adventures are filled with humor, imagination, and family fun.
- **The Best School Year Ever** — The Herdman kids are known as the worst children in town, but when they shake up the school year, surprising lessons about kindness and understanding emerge. This humorous story is both chaotic and heartfelt.
- **Patriots, Redcoats & Spies** — Travel back to the American Revolution and uncover the secret missions, daring spies, and dangerous risks that shaped history. This exciting nonfiction book brings the Revolutionary War to life through real stories of courage and intrigue.

Christian School Book List Grades 6-8

Author	Title	Lexile Level
Avi	The Good Dog	680L
Erdrich	The Birchbark House	930L
Benge, Janet & George	Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime	850L
Erdrich, Louise	The Birchbark House	930L
Flippo, Lisa	Starfish	970L
Frank, Anne	Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl	1020L
Freedman, Russell	Lincoln: A Photobiography	1260L
Giff, Patricia R.	Nory Ryan’s Song	660L

Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Strangers (Greystone Secrets Series Book 1)	700L
Larson, Kirby	Duke	730L
Peretti, Frank	Tilly	690L
Rue, Nancy	So Not Okay	760L
Schmidt, Gary D.	Wednesday Wars	990L
Sanderson, Brandon	Steelheart	890L
Sperry, Armstrong	Call It Courage	670L
Toney, Cynthia T.	Other Side of Freedom	700L
Whitener, Rusty	A Season of Miracles	840L
Wilson, Diane Lee	I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade	850L

Summary of the books:

- **The Good Dog** — When a loyal farm dog named McKinley faces danger and change in the modern world, he must decide where he truly belongs. This heartwarming story explores friendship, courage, and the bond between humans and animals.
- **The Birchbark House** — Set on an island in the 1840s, this richly detailed novel follows Omakayas, an Ojibwe girl growing up surrounded by family, tradition, and the beauty of nature. A moving coming-of-age story filled with resilience and cultural heritage.
- **Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime** — Against all odds, Gladys Aylward journeys to China to serve as a missionary and ends up changing countless lives. Her incredible true story is filled with faith, bravery, and daring adventures during wartime.
- **Starfish** — Ellie has spent years feeling invisible because of cruel comments about her weight, but through poetry and self-discovery, she begins to find her voice. A powerful and emotional novel about identity, courage, and learning to love yourself.
- **Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl** — Hidden away during World War II, Anne Frank records her fears, dreams, and hopes in a diary that has inspired generations. Her unforgettable words reveal both the horrors of war and the enduring strength of the human spirit.
- **Lincoln: A Photobiography** — Through photographs, letters, and vivid storytelling, Abraham Lincoln's life comes alive—from his humble beginnings to his leadership during the Civil War. An engaging look at one of America's most influential presidents.

- **Nory Ryan’s Song** — During the devastating Irish Potato Famine, Nory Ryan must fight to keep hope alive as her family struggles to survive. This gripping historical novel highlights the power of love, determination, and sacrifice.
- **Greystone Secrets #1: The Strangers** — Chess, Emma, and Finn discover a mysterious news story featuring children who look exactly like them—and suddenly their world turns upside down. Packed with suspense, secrets, and twists, this adventure keeps readers guessing until the very end.
- **Duke** — Hobie’s older brother has gone off to war, and now Hobie must learn what courage really means while caring for a German Shepherd named Duke. A touching story about loyalty, family, and life during World War II.
- **Tilly** — A mysterious little girl named Tilly leads a couple on a life-changing journey that challenges their understanding of love, loss, and forgiveness. This emotional story delivers a powerful message about the value of every human life.
- **So Not Okay** — When middle school rumors and cyberbullying spiral out of control, two girls must learn the importance of kindness, truth, and standing up for others. A realistic and relatable story for today’s teens.
- **The Wednesday Wars** — During the turbulent 1960s, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood navigates school drama, family expectations, and Shakespeare in unexpected ways. Funny, heartfelt, and unforgettable, this novel captures the challenges of growing up.
- **Steelheart** — In a world ruled by superpowered villains called Epics, one ordinary teenager is determined to defeat the invincible Steelheart. Full of action, mystery, and explosive battles, this dystopian adventure is impossible to put down.
- **Call It Courage** — Mafatu has always feared the sea, but when he sets out alone on a dangerous voyage, he must confront his deepest fears to prove his courage. A timeless survival story about bravery and self-discovery.
- **The Other Side of Freedom** — When Salomon’s family flees violence in the Congo and starts a new life in America, he struggles to fit in while carrying painful memories of the past. A moving story about friendship, hope, and finding belonging.
- **A Season of Miracles** — After tragedy strikes, Zack discovers that faith, friendship, and baseball may help heal his broken family. This uplifting novel blends sports, heart, and inspiration into a story about second chances.
- **I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade** — In ancient Mongolia, Oyuna disguises herself as a boy and sets out on a dangerous journey across the Gobi Desert to save her family. Inspired by the world of Genghis Khan, this exciting adventure is filled with courage and determination.