

**St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School**  
**Suggested Summer Reading for Rising Seventh Graders**

You will read a total of at least 4 books:

- Required reading which is 1 biography or autobiography of your choice
- 1 Teacher Sponsored Book (see the list at the bottom of the document)
- Train Your Brain for Success; A Teenager's Guide to Executive Functions*, Randy Kulman, Ph.D.
- 1 novel of your choice.

You may choose one from this list as your "choice" or another novel that appeals to you.

- Okay for Now*, Gary D. Schmidt
- I Kill the Mockingbird*, Paul Acampora
- The Green Glass Sea*, Ellen Klages
- Bird on Water Street*, Elizabeth O. Dulemba
- Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*, Wendy Mass
- Navigating Early*, Clare Vanderpool
- I am David*, Anne Holm
- The Tin Snail*, Cameron McAllister
- Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, Gary D. Schmidt
- Going Where it's Dark* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- Tesla's Attic* by Neal Shusterman
- Rangers Apprentice* Series by John Flanagan
- Books by Alan Gratz (WWI and II themes)
- Enola Holmes* mystery series by Nancy Springer
- Books by David Korman like *The Unteachables*
- Millionaire for a Month* by Stacy McAnulty
- Books by Mike Lupica (sports themes)
- Unabridged *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- Unabridged *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkein (challenge read)

**Teacher Sponsored Summer Reading 2021 (For 6th and 7th Grade ONLY; choose one)**

***Songs for a Whale*** by Lynne Kelly From helping her teacher in class with computer issues to repairing broken down old radios, twelve year old Iris is a tech genius. However, she is the only deaf person in her school, so her life isn't going as well as you think. She keeps getting into trouble and is deeply angry. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to communicate to other whales, Iris understands. She works at finding a way to help him "sing" and be heard. A wonderful story, with details about sound frequency and lots of facts about whales and how they communicate.

***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of a motel and tends to its guests. Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

***The Staircase*** by Ann Rinaldi Lizzy Ender's father has left her at a girl's school as he is unable to take her on his job. She's surrounded by Catholics--but she's Methodist! Shunned by the other boarders, Lizzy befriends a wandering carpenter named José, who with just three tools--and unflagging faith--builds an elaborate spiral staircase in the new chapel in mere weeks. When he disappears without a trace, Lizzy realizes that the way she sees things is not always the way they are. Inspired by the legend of the "miraculous" staircase in the Chapel of Loretto in Santa Fe, renowned author, Ann Rinaldi skillfully blends the mystery surrounding the staircase's builder with the daily trials of a spunky thirteen-year-old girl growing up in the 1870s.

***Straw into Gold*** by Hilary McKay Featuring Hilary McKay's imaginative retellings of key favorites, this ten-story collection includes the muchloved stories of Rapunzel, Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, the Swan Brothers and more. Beautifully retold, with humor, this is a fun summer read for all!

***The Trumpeter of Krakow*** by Eric P. Kelly There is something about the Great Tarnov Crystal- wise men speak of it in hushed tones. Others are ready to kill for it. And now a murderous Tartar chief is bent on possessing it. But despite this, Joseph is bound by an ancient oath to protect the jewel at all costs. When Joseph and his family seek refuge in

medieval Krakow, they are caught up in the plots and intrigues of alchemists, hypnotists, and a dark messenger of evil. Will Joseph be able to protect the crystal and the city from the plundering Tartars? This is a well-known historical fiction based loosely on actual events in Medieval Poland.

**The Metropolitans** by Carol Goodman The day Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, four thirteen-year-olds converge at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where an eccentric curator is seeking four uncommonly brave souls to track down the hidden pages of the Kelmsbury Manuscript, an ancient book of Arthurian legends that lies scattered within the museum's collection, and that holds the key to preventing a second attack on American soil. When Madge, Joe, Kiku, and Walt agree to help, they have no idea that the Kelmsbury is already working its magic on them. But they begin to develop extraordinary powers and experience the feelings of King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, Morgan le Fay, and Lancelot: courage, friendship, love...and betrayal. Are they playing out a legend that's already been lived, over and over, across the ages? Or can the Metropolitans forge their own story? (Good Reads)

**Lucky Broken Girl** by Ruth Behar Based on the author's childhood in the 1960s, a young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed. Ruthie Mizrahi and her family recently emigrated from Castro's Cuba to New York City. Just when she's finally beginning to gain confidence in her mastery of English and enjoying her reign as her neighborhood's hopscotch queen, a horrific car accident leaves her in a body cast and confined her to her bed for a long recovery. As Ruthie's world shrinks because of her inability to move, her powers of observation and her heart grow larger. She comes to understand how fragile life is, how vulnerable we all are as human beings, and how friends, neighbors, and the power of the arts can sweeten even the worst of times.

**Shoe Dog** by Phil Knight (Young Readers Edition) It was only when Nike founder Phil Knight got cut from the baseball team as a high school freshman that his mother suggested he try out for track instead. Knight made the track team and he found he could run fast and even more he liked it. Ten years later, Knight borrowed fifty dollars from his father and launched a company with one simple mission: import high quality running shoes from Japan. Selling the shoes from the trunk of his car to start, he and his gang of friends and runners built one of the most successful brands ever. Phil Knight encountered risks and setbacks along the way, but always followed his own advice. Just keep going. Don't stop. Whatever comes up, don't stop. Filled with wisdom, humanity, humor, and heart, this is a story of determination that inspires all who read it. The Young Reader's Edition is an abridged version of the internationally bestselling adult book and it features original front matter and back matter, including a new introduction and "A

Letter to the Young Reader” containing advice from Phil Knight for budding entrepreneurs. (Good Reads)

**I Kill the Mockingbird** by Paul Acampora A book for people who love books. Three middle school kids who love books and are proud of being nerdy decide to hide all the copies of TKAM in the local bookshops and libraries so that people will not get them and thus the demand for them will go up. However their plan goes awry and they somehow set it right. Witty, laugh out loud prose, with many, many references to some all-time favorite authors and books make this a delightful summer read.

**Seven Riddles to Nowhere** by A.J.Cattapan All seventh grader Kameron Boyd wants to do is keep his little Catholic school from closing. It's the only school where they've made life as a selective mute somewhat bearable. As the school faces financial distress, Kam learns he is one of many potential heirs to a fortune large enough to keep his school open. With the school's bully as one of the other potential heirs, Kam and his friends race to solve the riddles first. Their journey takes them through the churches of Chicago to decipher the hidden meanings in artwork all while avoiding the mysterious men following them. But creepy men in trench coats won't stop them! They're on a quest--not only to keep the school open, but to help Kam recover his voice.

**The Year Money Grew on Trees** by Aaron Hawkins A good read about hard work and economics and understanding numbers! Funny, engaging story of 14 year old Jackson, who spends his summer trying to get an apple orchard of 300 trees up and running. The thing is, he has no idea about apple trees, but he is determined to succeed as he wants to avoid a summer job working for a bullying boss in a scrap yard. If he succeeds, he becomes the heir to the orchard. If he doesn't- he has to pay a small fortune to the owner! He gets his siblings and cousins to help and this is a summer tale of children using books from the library and their wits to accomplish the impossible.

**A Single Bead** by Stephanie Engleman On the anniversary of the plane crash that took the life of her beloved grandmother, Katelyn discovers a single bead from her grandmother's rosary- a rosary that was lost in the crash. A chance encounter with a stranger, who tells Katelyn about how a similar bead saved her friend's life launches Katelyn and her family on a quest to find the other missing beads. Their search takes them on a journey filled with glimmers of hope, mystical events and unexpected graces.

**Listen to the Moon** by Michael Morpurgo An injured girl is found on an abandoned island off the shores of England. Alfie and his father rescue her and take her home. She does not speak and seems to have no memory of her past or anything about herself. The story is set during WWI- and so the entire village is suspicious of the child, thinking

she is German. Alfie finds that he becomes the champion, in a way, of this strange girl who gradually regains her memory and is able to share her incredible story of survival from the sinking of the luxury ship S.S Lusitania. The story is one of friends, enemies, and the poignant ways in which war can bring unexpected kindness