



Required Summer Reading Rising 2nd-11th Grades Summer 2023

Reading through the summer is an important part of being a Veritas student. Summer is long and we don't want learning to stop just because we have time away from school. "Students who read during the summer gain an average of 1 month of reading proficiency. Students who don't lose an average of 2-3 months proficiency and over time, those lost months add up to years."(Booksource) Reading expands a student's vocabulary and comprehension and leads to better writing skills. Students who read more serious literature also gain skills in handling complex ideas. The more they read, the more information they retain. This leads to a solid core of knowledge that is useful across the curriculum.

We expect that students would continue to dive into reading as they do during the school year. We suggest families set a structure at the beginning of the summer to ensure that reading and writing are happening daily.

To help students get ready for the next grade level, the following titles have been selected by the faculty for students to read over the summer. **These titles are required for students to read before the first day of school begins.** We recommend that students wait to read their assigned book until closer to the end of summer break. Students should expect that they will have discussion and some type of assessment on this book within the first week of school.

Required Titles by Grade Level

2nd- Trumpet of the Swan by EB White

3rd- Stuart Little by EB White

4th- The Story of King Arthur & His Knights (Classic Starts) Retold from the Howard Pyle original

5th- Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

6th- Adventures of Lewis and Clark by John Bakeless

7th - Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring (Mariner Press)

8th - Ben Hur by Wallace (Complete and Unabridged - Wilder Publishing)

9th - Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan (By Penguin Press with intro by Pooley)

10th & 11th - A Connecticut Yankee in King Author's Court by Twain - (Signet Publishing with Intro by Krauth)



2023 Summer Reading Olympics

Summer Reading Olympics is a tradition that students have participated in since the school's inaugural year. Its purpose is to encourage students to read during the summer break. This summer we would **expect** all students in the grammar school, grades K-6th to participate in this fun and meaningful event. Please see the next page for details.

1. Read every day!
Parents may read books aloud to rising Kindergarten and 1st-grade students. Family read-alouds in all grades are also encouraged and can be added to books read independently.

2. Fill in your reading log and have your parents sign it!

3. Keep your log in a safe place.

*When your reading log is totally filled in, save it until school starts.
(If you need more space, just add a sheet of paper.)*

4. **All reading logs are due the first week of school.**

5. Visit the local library to get new books!

6. Be a WINNER!

Gold Medal Winner: *K-2 read 45 books or more OR 1000 pages or more
3-5 read 2,000 pages or more
6 read 3,000 pages or more*

Silver Medal Winner: *K-2 read 30-44 books OR 750 pages or more
3-5 read 1,500-1,999 pages
6 read 2,500-2,999 pages*

Bronze Medal Winner: *K-2 read 15-29 books OR 500 pages or more
3-5 read 1,000-1,499 pages
6 read 2,000- 2,499 pages*

7. Prizes for WINNERS!

Gold Medal Winners: A gold medal! 2 coupon books*, Ice Cream Sundae Party!

Silver Medal Winner: A silver medal! 1 coupon book*, Ice Cream Sundae Party!

Bronze Medal Winner: A bronze medal! Ice Cream Sundae Party!

* *The coupon book contains coupons for special privileges at Veritas, like "No homework" pass, extra recess time, special treats, and LOTS MORE!!!*

Grammar School Book Recommendations by Grade Level

During a student's education at Veritas Classical School, they will be exposed to many genres of quality literature. Throughout the summer, we recommend that parents spend time reading aloud, especially to kindergarten and first grade children, but children are never too young to be read to! Children in higher grade levels are expected to read on their own, aloud to their parents or other siblings, and be read to. We would like to offer the following book recommendations to assist you in developing a love for reading in your child.

Rising Pre-K and Kindergarten

A New Coat for Anna by Harriet Ziefert
Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett
Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown
Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban
Dandelion by Don Freeman
Ferdinand by Munro Leaf
Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion
If you Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Jesse Bear What Will You Wear? Nancy White Carlstrom
Katie and the Sunflowers by James Mayhew
Katy No-Pocket by Emmy Payne
Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus
Little Bear by Else Homelund
Minarik Little Fur Family by Margaret Wise Brown
Make Way for the Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
Moon: A Peek Through Picture Book by Britta Teckentrup
Nighty Night Cooper by Laura Numeroff
Norman the Doorman by Don Freeman
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner
Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy E Shaw
Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Stone Soup by Marcia Brown
Swimmy by Leo Lionni
The Carrot Seed by Robert Kraus
The Cock, The Mouse, and The Little Red Hen by Lorinda Bryan Cauley
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
The Little Pokey Puppy by Janette Sebring Lowrey
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown
The Story about Ping by Marjorie Flack
The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens
Where Does the Butterfly Go When it Rains? By May Garelick
Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne

Rising 1st Grade

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams
A New Coat for Anna by Harriet Ziefert
Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie (and others in the series) by Laura Joffe Numeroff
James Herriot's Treasury for Children by James Herriot
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
The Emperor's New Clothes by Han Christian Andersen
The Little Engine that Could by Watty Piper
The Magic Fish by Freya Littledale
The Original Mother Goose by Blanche Fisher Wright (illustrator)
The Story of Ping by Marjorie Flack/Kurt Weise
Frogs by Gail Gibbons
Butterflies by Nic Bishop
Any books by Eric Carle, Jan Brett, and Leo Lionni
Corduroy series by Don Freeman
Curious George series by H.A. Rey
Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
Little Bear series by Else Homelund Minarik
Mr. Putter and Tabby series by Cynthia Rylant

Rising 2nd Grade

Birthday for Frances (or others in series) by Lillian Hoban
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Roxaboxen by Barabara Cooney
The Biggest Bear by Lynd Kendall Ward
Blaze and the Lost Quarry (or others in series) by C.W. Anderson
A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams
Doctor Desoto by William Steig
Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco
When We Were Very Young by A.A. Milne
Now We Are Six by A.A. Milne
Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen
My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannet
The Selfish Giant by Oscar Wilde
Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle by Betty MacDonald
Paddington Bear Treasury by Michael Bond
One Morning in Maine by Robert McCloskey
Mouse and the Motorcycle series by Beverly Cleary
The Boxcar Children's series by Gertrude Chandler Warner
The Cam Jansen Mystery series by David A. Adler
A-Z Mysteries series by Rob Roy
Princess in Black series by Shannon Hale
Nate the Great series by Marjorie Sharmat
Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Lovelace
Cobble Street Cousins series by Cynthia Rylant
Mary Pope Osborne series
Usborne Time Traveler series
Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness Readers Levels 2 and 3

Rising 3rd Grade

Adventures of Laura and Jack by Laura Ingalls Wilder
School Mouse; Charlie Muffin's Miracle Mouse; Funny Frank all by Dick King-Smith
Hannah; Silver; Indian School; Next Spring an Oriole all by Gloria Whelan
Punished by David Lubar
Friska, My Friend by Patricia St. John
The Other Kitten by Patricia St. John
Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
Shoeshine Girl by Clyde Robert Bulla
The BFG by Roald Dahl
Danny, The Champion of the World by Roald Dahl
The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White
The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis
Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry
Sea Star – Orphan of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry
Homer Price by Robert McCloskey
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
Ralph S. Mouse by Beverly Cleary
Henry Huggins by Beverly Cleary
Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
Mandie and the Secret Tunnel by Lois Gladys Leppard
The Wonder Clock by Howard Pyle
The King of the Golden River by John Ruskin
DK Eyewitness Books: Ancient Greece by Anne Pearson
DK Eyewitness Books: Ancient Rome by Simon James
Jigsaw Jones series by James Preller
Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo series by Nancy Krulik
Little House on the Prairie series by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Rising 4th Grade

Suggested Fiction and Historical Fiction

Beorn the Proud by Madeline Pollard
The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis
Huguenot Garden by Douglas M. Jones III
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert C. O'Brien
The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White
My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
The Borrowers by Mary Norton
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
Aladdin and Other Tales from the Arabian Nights by N. J. Dawood
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Crispin by Avi
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
The Beatryce Prophecy by DiCamillo Kate
The Beggar's Bible (John Wycliffe) by Louise A. Vernon
The Bible Smuggler (William Tyndale) by Louise A. Vernon
The Man Who Laid the Egg (Erasmus) by Louise A. Vernon
Ink On His Fingers (Gutenberg) by Louise A. Vernon
Son of Charlemagne by Barbara Willard and Emil Weiss
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling
The Shakespeare Stealer series by Gary Blackwood

Suggested Biographies

Augustine the Farmers Boy of Tagaste by P. de Zeeuw
The River of Grace (John Calvin) by Joyce McPherson
Saint Patrick: Pioneer Missionary to Ireland by Michael J. McHugh
Some Writer!: The Story of E. B. White by Melissa Sweet

Who Was Marco Polo? by Joan Holub
Along Came Galileo by Jeanne Bendick
A Piece of the Mountain (Pascal) by Joyce McPherson

Rising 5th Grade

Suggested Fiction and Historical Fiction

Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Gone-Away Lake by Elizabeth Enright
One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Early Thunder by Jean Fritz
Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
Guns for General Washington: A Story of the American Revolution by Seymour Reit
Mr. Revere and I by Robert Lawson
Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos by Robert Lawson
The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau
Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine
The Children's Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Fall of Troy by Padraic Colum
Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi
At the Back of the North Wind by George MacDonald

Biographies

Ben Franklin of Old Philadelphia by Margaret Cousins
The Great Little Madison by Jean Fritz
Pocahontas and the Strangers by Robert Clyde Bulla
John Paul Jones by Sperry Armstrong
Why Not, Lafayette? by Jean Fritz
Traitor: the Case of Benedict Arnold by Jean Fritz
Around the World in a Hundred Years by Jean Fritz
Pocahontas by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Columbus by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Leif the Lucky by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Benjamin Franklin by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
Daniel Boone: His Own Story by Daniel Boone
Magellan: Ferdinand Magellan and the First Trip Around the World (Exploring the World) by Michael Burgan
John Wesley: The World His Parish by Geoff and Janet Bengel

Rising 6th Grade

Fiction and Historical Fiction

The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
The Cay by Theodore Taylor
The Boy in the Alamo by Margaret Cousins
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter
Sunder by William H. Armstrong
Hitty Her First Hundred Years by Rachel Field

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
The Fellowship of the Ring by J. R. R. Tolkien
The Dragon King Trilogy (In the Hall of the Dragon King; The Warlords of Nin; The Sword and the Flame) by Stephen R. Lawhead
From the Earth to the Moon by Jules Verne
Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan
Wonder by R. J. Palacio
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
Mary Poppins by P. L. Travers
Call it Courage by Armstrong Sperry
On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness by Andrew Peterson
Outlaws of Time by N. D. Wilson
The Watson's Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis
A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck
Tintin Books by Hergé

Biographies

Abe Lincoln: Log Cabin to White House by Sterling North
Basher Five-Two (US Pilot in Bosnia) by Captain Scott O'Grady
Bruchko (Missionary to S. American Indians) by Bruce Olson
Carry a Big Stick: The Uncommon Heroism of Theodore Roosevelt by George Grant
Children of the Storm (Christian family in the former Soviet Union) by Natasha Vins
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
If I Perish (Christian in Japan during WWII) by Esther Ahn Kim
Raoul Wallenberg: The Man Who Stopped Death by Sharon Linnea
The Wright Brothers by Quentin Reynolds
Stonewall by Jean Fritz
Rosa Parks: My Story by Rosa Parks
The Story of Thomas Alva Edison by Margaret Cousins

Summer Reading in Logic and Rhetoric Schools

Although students in the upper school do not participate in the Summer Reading Olympics, we do still **expect that they read through the summer**. In addition to the required reading referenced on the front page of this document, we have compiled a list by grade level of recommended books that students may enjoy reading through the summer.

Rising 7th Grade

Tales of the Greek Heroes by Roger Lanclyn Green
The Slave Dancer by Paula Fox
Amy Carmichael: Let the Little Children Come by Lois Hoadley Dick
George Muller: Man of Faith and Miracles by Basil Miller
The Little Woman by Gladys Aylward
Eric Liddell: Something Greater than Gold by Janet Bengé and Geoff Bengé OR Eric Liddell by Catherine Swift

Rising 8th Grade

Tales of the Greek Heroes by Roger Lanclyn Green
Peace Child by Don Richardson
Joni: An Unforgettable Story by Joni Eareckson Tada and Billy Graham
Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to end Slavery by Eric Metaxas
Through Gates of Splendor by Elisabeth Elliot or Jum Elliot
One Great Purpose by Janet and Geoff Bengé

Rising 9th Grade

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, by JRR Tolkien

The Two Towers by JRR Tolkien

The Return of the King by JRR Tolkien

On the Shoulders of Hobbits: The Road to Virtue with Tolkien and Lewis, by Louis Markos

Odd and the Frost Giants, by Neil Gaiman.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead, by Avi

The Seeing Stone, by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Rising 10th Grade

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (1831 edition). Silas Marner by George Eliot

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

The Confessions by St. Augustine

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Between Heaven and Hell by Peter Kreeft

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass; David W. Blight (Editor)

Rising 11th Grade

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe

The Open Window by H. H. Munro (Saki)

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

Moby Dick by Herman Melville

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver