



King's Christian School Summer Reading List 2010

All students in Grades 3 – 8 are required to read three select books during the summer. Books may be borrowed from the public library or purchased at local book stores. Students will be tested on the books and/or required to do book reports. Students who do not complete the reading assignments before the start of school will receive an appropriately reduced grade.

Elementary Students

Entering Third Grade (all three books required):

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

The Boxcar Children #1 by Gertrude Chandler Warner (red boxcar on cover)

The Courage of Sarah Noble by Alice Dalgliesh

Entering Fourth Grade (all three books required):

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

A Cricket in Times Square by George Selden

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate Di Camillo

Entering Fifth Grade (all three books required):

Heidi by Johanna Spyri

The Black Stallion by Walter Farley

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Middle School Students

Each student must read the required book for the grade he or she is entering (see charts below). Very soon into the school year, the class will be tested on that book. In addition, students must choose two books from the list of additional books and write book reports on those books. **The book reports are due the first day of language arts class.** Guidelines for writing the book reports follow.

Entering Sixth Grade (three required in all):

Required book: *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean George

Additional books (choose **two**):

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

Esperanza Rising, Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother must give up their lives of wealth in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California during the Great Depression.

James and the Giant Peach by Raol Dahl

A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach.

Tuck Everlasting, Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family confronts an agonizing situation; they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger share their secret about a spring that prevents one from ever growing old.

The Horse and His Boy, C.S. Lewis

A boy and a talking horse share an adventurous and dangerous journey to Narnia to warn of invading barbarians.

Entering Seventh Grade (three required in all):

Required book: *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Additional books (choose **two** from the list on the next page):

Additional books for seventh grade (choose **two**):

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Left alone on a beautiful, but isolated, island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

The Last Battle by C.S. Lewis

With Eustace and Jill at his side, the King, the noble unicorn Jewel, and a few remaining loyal subjects must stand fast against the powers of evil and darkness and fight The Last Battle to decide the future of this once glorious kingdom.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is sent to a horrible boys' juvenile detention center in the Texas desert. As punishment, the boys here must each dig a hole every day, five feet deep and five feet across. Ultimately, Stanley "digs up the truth" -- and through his experience, finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Entering Eighth Grade (three required in all):

Required book: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

Additional books (choose **two**):

The Hobbit by J. R. Tolkien

The delightful tale which first creates the fantasy called Middle Earth and its charming dwarf-like creatures, the Hobbits.

Little Women by Louisa Alcott

The novel follows the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy March

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

A homeless girl is taken in as an apprentice by a hot-tempered midwife, and eventually, in spite of obstacles and hardships, gains a place in the world.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Book Report Guidelines for Middle School Students ONLY:

1. Important **information about the book** should be included in the first paragraph.
 - the title
 - the author's name
 - the type of book—fiction, nonfiction, biography, Christian fiction
 - the number of pages
 - the setting—where the story takes place—on a farm, in a particular city or country, etc.
2. The second paragraph includes a **brief summary of the plot**. The plot of the book is all the happenings that form the main story. You are to write a summary of all those happenings. Your summary should be approximately one half-page long.
3. Then, **tell how the reader is better or wiser**. Think about what you learned from this book. Did the character's life inspire you to improve yourself in any way? Did you learn something about life or people that you did not know before? Did you learn some new, interesting facts? Write a paragraph telling how you are better or wiser for having read the book.
4. **Quote a passage worth remembering**. Was there a sentence, a paragraph, or a remark in the book that impressed you because it was funny or beautiful or inspirational or revealing? Copy it in your report so that you can remember it. Explain why you liked it. If the passage is two or more sentences and more than four lines in the book, write it as a block quotation. Skip a line before starting the quotation and skip another line at the end of the quotation. Indent the entire left margin of the quotation an extra half inch. The unusual spacing and left indentation shows the reader that it is a direct quotation so that no quotation marks are needed.
5. **Tell the best thing about the book**. Think about what made the book good. Was it full of exciting adventures? Were the characters memorable and realistic? Were the explanations (if nonfiction) clear? Did it have vivid illustrations? Was it written from a Christian perspective? Did the author use language in an interesting way? Write a paragraph telling the best things about the book. Show what you mean by giving examples from the book. End with a sentence or two that makes your book report sound finished.
6. **Write I have completely read this entire book and sign your name**. Be honest. If a problem arises and you cannot finish reading your book, talk to your teacher. It is very important that you finish the book before writing the report. Rewrite your report making sure that it is not too long or too short. Check your paper to be sure it is error-free. The report you turn in should be typewritten or written in your best penmanship. (from *God's Gift of Language C*, A Beka Books, Pensacola, FL)