

Covenant Classical School Summer Reading Program | Summer 2025

Each summer students at CCS are required to participate in the summer reading program. The purpose of the program is to augment the curriculum, expose students to quality literature and cultivate a love of reading. All students are required to complete their respective reading assignment. Reading assignments are listed below, including the ISBN of recommended editions.

Incoming Kindergarten	We encourage you to foster a love for reading within your child by regularly visiting the library and having a set time to read to them each day. Skills to work on include predicting what happens next, retelling the story, and completing rhymes.
Incoming 1 st grade:	It is very important for your rising first grader to practice reading regularly and often over the summer to keep decoding and fluency skills fresh for the upcoming school year. Make visiting your local library a fun weekly event. Help your child choose books at their reading level and use the CCS Book Recommendations List for guidance on series for early readers.
Incoming 2 nd grade:	Read <i>Beginner's Bible</i> published by Zondervan (ISBN-10: 0310709628). Read <i>Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile</i> by Tomie DePaola (ISBN-10: 0698114019). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 3 rd grade:	Read <i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White (ISBN-10: 0064400557). Read <i>Adventures of the Greek Heroes</i> by Anne M. Wiseman & Mollie McLean (ISBN-10: 0395137144). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 4 th grade:	Read <i>My Side of the Mountain</i> by Jean Craighead George (ISBN-10: 0140348107). Read <i>The Trumpet of the Swan</i> by E.B. White (ISBN-10: 0064410943). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 5 th grade:	Read <i>The Sign of the Beaver</i> by Elizabeth George Speare (ISBN-10: 9780547577111). Read <i>Amos Fortune</i> by Elizabeth Yates (ISBN-10: 0140341587). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 6 th grade:	Read <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain (ISBN-10: 0486400778). Read <i>Colloquia Personarum</i> , Chapters 1-8 by Hans H. Orberg (ISBN-10: 158510938X). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 7 th grade:	Read the books of <i>Genesis</i> and <i>Exodus</i> from the Bible (ESV translation preferred). Read <i>Colloquia Personarum</i> , Chapters 9-16 by Hans H. Orberg (ISBN-10: 158510938X). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 8 th grade:	Read <i>Trojan Women</i> by Euripides (ISBN: 978-0-451-52700-4). Read <i>Colloquia Personarum</i> , Chapters 17-24 by Hans H. Orberg (ISBN-10: 158510938X). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 9 th grade:	Read <i>Beowulf</i> translated by Seamus Heany (ISBN: 978-0393320978). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 10 th grade:	Read <i>Utopia</i> by Thomas More (ISBN: 978-0140449105). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 11 th grade:	Read <i>1984</i> by George Orwell (ISBN: 978-0451524935). Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.
Incoming 12 th grade:	Read <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee (ISBN: 978-0446310789). Read a compilation of poetry provided by the teacher. Read one additional book selected from the CCS Book Recommendations List.

**Colloquia Personarum* is an assignment for 6th-8th grade students. The assigned reading should only take 5-10 minutes per week. This is only a reading, not a translation activity.

Covenant Classical School Book Recommendations List | Summer 2025

For incoming Kindergarten students:

As the school year approaches, consider reading books about kindergarten and becoming independent, such as:

Kindergarten, Here I Come! by David Steinberg
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones
Too Shy to Say Hi by Shannon Anderson

Family read aloud book recommendations:

Carlson, Nancy – *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come* (ISBN-10: 0140568387)
Graham, Oakley – *I Can Tie My Own Shoelaces* (ISBN-10: 1782448241)
McGhee, Alison – *Countdown to Kindergarten* (ISBN-10: 015205586X)
Penn, Audrey – *The Kissing Hand* (ISBN-10: 1933718102)
Wing, Natasha – *The Night Before Kindergarten* (ISBN-10: 0448425009)

For incoming 1st grade students:

Rising first graders may be reading at a variety of levels, so please be discerning when choosing books for your child. Choose books at your child's reading level so they do not become discouraged. Your young reader may require some assistance as they decode words, which is to be expected after the kindergarten year. Consider helping your child read through any number of the books selected from the authors/series listed below while focusing on his/her development of decoding skills.

Advanced Level Bob Books

Green Light Readers

I Can Read Books

Puffin Easy-to-Read

Step into Reading

Dick and Jane Books

Dr. Seuss Early Readers

P.D. Eastman Early Readers

Munro Leaf Classics

Read-It! Readers

*Hoban, Russell – *Frances (Series)*

*Lobel, Arnold – *Frog and Toad (Series)*

*Minarik, Else Holmelund – *Little Bear (Series)*

*Rylant, Cynthia – *Mr. Putter and Tabby (Series)*

*Rylant, Cynthia – *Henry and Mudge (Series)*

**higher level series*

Family read aloud book recommendations:

Leithart, Peter J. – *Wise Words: Family Stories that Bring Proverbs to Life* (ISBN-10: 1591280141)
Offen, Hilda – *A Treasury of Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes* (ISBN-10: 0671501186)

For incoming 2nd grade students:

Averill, Esther – *Jenny the Cat Club (Series)*

Byars, Betsy – *The Golly Sisters (Series)*

Clearly, Beverly – *Henry Huggins (Series)*

Dagleish, Alice – *The Courage of Sarah Noble*

Levinson, Smiler – *Snowshoe Thompson*

Lobel, Arnold – *Days with Frog and Toad (Series)*

Karon, Jan – *Jeremy: The Tale of an Honest Bunny*

McCloskey, Robert – *Homer Price (Series)*

Parish, Peggy – *Amelia Bedelia (Series)*

Rylant, Cynthia – *The High-Rise Private Eyes (Series)*

Sharmat, Marjorie Weiman – *Nate the Great (Series)*

Stevens, Janet and Susan Stevens Crummel – *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon*

For incoming 3rd grade students:

Banks, Lynne – *The Indian in the Cupboard*
Bulla, Clyde R. – *Riding the Pony Express*
Bulla, Clyde R. – *Shoeshine Girl*
Cleary, Beverly – *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*
Cleary, Beverly – *Henry Huggins (Series)*
Cleary, Beverly – *Ramona (Series)*
Enright, Elizabeth – *The Saturdays*
Enright, Elizabeth – *Thimble Summer*
Estes, Eleanor – *Ginger Pye*
Estes, Eleanor – *The Moffats*
Grahame, Kenneth – *The Wind in the Willows*
Haywood, Carolyn – *B is for Betsy (Series)*
Henry, Marguerite – *Misty of Chincoteague (Series)*
Kipling, Rudyard – *Just So Stories*
Lenski, Lois – *Strawberry Girl*
Lovelace, Maude Hart – *Betsy Tacy (Series)*
McCloskey, Robert – *Homer Price (Series)*
Silverstein, Shel – *Where the Sidewalk Ends*
Sobol, Donald J. – *Encyclopedia Brown (Series)*
Stewart, Trenton Lee – *Mysterious Benedict Society (Series)*
Warner, Gertrude Chandler – *The Boxcar Children (Series)*
Wilder, Laura Ingalls – *Little House on the Prairie (Series)*

For incoming 4th grade students:

Burnett, Frances Hodges – *Little Lord Fauntleroy*
Dixon, Franklin – *The Hardy Boys (Series)*
Fleischman, Sid – *The Whipping Boy*
Jacques, Brian – *Redwall (Series)*
Keene, Carolyn – *The Nancy Drew Mystery Stories (Series)*
Kipling, Rudyard – *The Jungle Book*
Lewis, C.S. – *A Horse and His Boy*
Little, Jean – *Mine for Keeps*
Lofting, Hugh – *Dr. Doolittle (Series)*
MacDonald, George – *The Princess and the Goblin*
Montgomery, L. M. – *Anne of Green Gables (Series)*
Nesbit, Edith – *Five Children and It*
Norton, Mary – *The Borrowers (Series)*
Porter, Eleanor – *Just David*
St. John, Patricia – *Treasures of the Snow*
Vernon, Louise – *The Beggar's Bible*

For incoming 5th grade students:

Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Chains*
Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Forge*
Anderson, Laurie Halse – *Ashes*
Benge, Janet and Geoff – *Christian Heroes: Then and Now (Series)*
Burnett, Frances Hodgson – *The Little Princess*
Burnett, Frances Hodgson – *The Lost Prince*
Lewis, C.S. – *Prince Caspian**
MacDonald, George – *The Light Princess*
O'Dell, Scott – *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
O'Dell, Scott – *Sarah Bishop**
Paulsen, Gary – *Hatchet*
Porter, Eleanor H. – *Pollyanna*
Rawls, Wilson – *Summer of the Monkeys*
Spyri, Johanna – *Heidi*
Stevenson, Robert Louis – *Kidnapped*
Stevenson, Robert Louis – *Treasure Island**

Stewart, Trenton Lee – *The Mysterious Benedict Society (Series)*

Wyss, Johan – *Swiss Family Robinson*

*Teacher Picks

For incoming 6th grade students:

Alcott, Louisa May – *Little Women*

Christie, Agatha – *And Then There Were None*

Curtis, Christopher Paul – *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

Field, Rachel – *Hitty*

Finley, Martha – *Life of Faith (Series)*

Gilbert, Henry – *Robin Hood*

Henty, G. A. – *The Boy Knight; Among Malay Pirates; Freedom's Cause; et. al.*

Bitton-Jackson, Livia – *I Have Lived a Thousand Years*

Kipling, Rudyard – *The Jungle Book*

Lewis, C.S. – *The Silver Chair*

London, Jack – *Call of the Wild*

London, Jack – *White Fang*

Montgomery, L.M. – *Anne of Green Gables*

O'Dell, Scott – *The King's Fifth*

Paterson, Katherine – *Bridge to Terabithia*

Raskin, Ellen – *The Westing Game*

Rawls, Wilson – *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Swift, Jonathan – *Gulliver's Travels*

Tolkien, J.R.R. – *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Twain, Mark – *The Prince and the Pauper*

Twain, Mark – *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Verne, Jules – *Around the World in Eighty Days*

Verne, Jules – *From Earth to Moon*

Verne, Jules – *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*

Wyss, Johann – *Swiss Family Robinson*

Sachar, Louis – *Holes*

Sutcliffe, Rosemary – *Eagle of the Ninth*

For incoming 7th through 8th grade students:

Adams, Richard – *Watership Down*

Armstrong, William – *Souder*

Avi – *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*

Card, Orson Scott – *Ender's Game*

Carroll, Lewis – *Alice in Wonderland*

Carroll, Lewis – *Through the Looking Glass*

Cather, Willa – *O Pioneers!*

Chesterton, G. K. – *Father Brown, The Essential Tales*

Christie, Agatha – *Death on the Nile*

Crane, Stephen – *The Red Badge of Courage*

Douglas, Lloyd C. – *The Robe*

Eliot, George – *Silas Marner*

Frank, Anne – *Diary of a Young Girl*

Goldman, William – *The Princess Bride*

Gunther, John – *Death Be Not Proud*

Henty, G. A. – *Winning His Spurs*

Herbert, Frank – *Dune*

Hurnard, Hannah – *Hinds' Feet on High Places*

Juster, Norton – *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Lewis, C. S. – *Out of the Silent Planet* (Space Trilogy)

Lewis, C. S. – *Screwtape Letters*

Lowry, Lois – *The Giver*

Kane, Ben – *The Silver Eagle*

Keyes, Daniel – *Flowers for Algernon*

Kipling, Rudyard – *The Jungle Book*

Kipling, Rudyard – *Kim*

Montgomery, L. M. – *Anne of Green Gables*
Pyle, Howard – *Otto of the Silver Hand*
Sayers, Dorothy – *Whose Body?* (Lord Peter Wimsey Series)
Steinbeck, John – *The Red Pony*
Stevenson, Robert Louis – *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Stevenson, Robert Louis – *Kidnapped*
Sutcliffe, Rosemary – *Eagle of the Ninth*
Twain, Mark – *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*
Twain, Mark – *The Prince and the Pauper*
Twain, Mark – *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
Tolkien, J. R. R. – *Lord of the Rings series*
Verne, Jules – *Around the World in Eighty Days*
Verne, Jules – *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*
Wodehouse, P. G. – *Jeeves series (The Inimitable Jeeves)*
Wyss, Johann David – *The Swiss Family Robinson*

For incoming 9th through 12th grade students:

Anonymous – *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Abbott, Edwin – *Flatland*
Austen, Jane – *Emma*
Austen, Jane – *Persuasion*
Austen, Jane – *Sense and Sensibility*
Beckmann, Petr – *A History of Pi*
Bengtsson, Frans G. – *The Long Ships*
Berlinski, David – *A Tour of the Calculus*
Berry, Wendell – *A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems, 1979 - 1997*
Boccaccio – *The Decameron*
Bodanis, David – *E=mc² A History of the World's Most Famous Equation*
Bolt, Robert – *A Man for All Seasons*
Bradbury, Ray – *Dandelion Wine*
Bradbury, Ray – *Fahrenheit 451*
Brontë, Charlotte – *Jane Eyre*
Brontë, Emily – *Wuthering Heights*
Bunyan, John – *Pilgrim's Progress*
Byl, John – *The Divine Challenge: On Mind, Matter, Math, and Meaning*
Chesterton, G. K. – *The Man Who Was Thursday*
Clarke, Arthur C. – *2001: A Space Odyssey*
Cooper, James Fenimore – *Last of the Mohicans*
Dickens, Charles – *Great Expectations*
Dickens, Charles – *Hard Times*
Dickens, Charles – *Oliver Twist*
Dinesen, Isak – *Out of Africa*
Dostoevsky, Fyodor – *The Idiot*
Dumas, Alexander – *The Count of Monte Cristo*
Dumas, Alexander – *The Three Musketeers*
Edwards, Jonathan – *Religious Affections*
Eliot, T. S. – *Murder in the Cathedral*
Ellison, Ralph – *The Invisible Man*
Faulkner, William – *The Reivers*
Faulkner, William – *The Unvanquished*
Faulkner, William – *As I Lay Dying*
Flaubert, Gustave – *Madame Bovary*
Forster, E. M. – *A Passage to India*
Gaarder, Jostein – *Sophie's World*
Hardy, Thomas – *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Harris, Joel Chandler – *The Complete Tales of Uncle Remus*
Herbert, George – *The Complete Poems*
Hemingway, Ernest – *A Farewell to Arms*
Hemingway, Ernest – *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
Holland, Tom – *Rubicon*
Hopkins, Gerard Manley – *Poems*
Hudson, W. H. – *Green Mansions*
Hugo, Victor – *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
James, Henry – *The Portrait of a Lady*
James, Henry – *The Turn of the Screw*
Kaplan, Robert & Ellen – *The Art of the Infinite*
Knowles, John – *A Separate Peace*
Lewis, C.S. – *Miracles*
Lewis, Sinclair – *Babbitt*
MacDonald, George – *Phantastes*
McPherson, James M. – *Battle Cry Freedom*
Melville, Herman – *Billy Budd*
Melville, Herman – *Moby Dick*
Mitchell, Margaret – *Gone with the Wind*
More, Sir Thomas – *Utopia*
Morris, Edmund – *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*
Nickel, James - *Mathematics: Is God Silent?*
Orwell, George – *Animal Farm*
Orwell, George – *Homage to Catalonia*
Pasternak, Boris – *Dr. Zhivago*
Paton, Alan – *Cry, the Beloved Country*
Porter, William Sidney – *The Best Short Stories of O. Henry*
Potok, Chaim - *The Chosen*
Rand, Ayn – *We the Living*
Robinson, Marilynne – *Gilead*
Shaara, Michael – *The Killer Angels*
Scott, Sir Walter – *Ivanhoe*
Shakespeare, William – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
Shakespeare, William – *Cymbeline*
Shakespeare, William – *Hamlet*
Shakespeare, William – *Macbeth*
Shakespeare, William – *Romeo and Juliet*
Shakespeare, William – *Twelfth Night*
Sinclair, Upton – *The Jungle*
Steinbeck, John – *The Grapes of Wrath*
Steinbeck, John – *The Pearl*
Stoker, Bram – *Dracula*
Stowe, Harriet Beecher – *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
Su, Francis - *Mathematics for Human Flourishing*
Swift, Jonathan – *Gulliver's Travels*
Tan, Amy – *The Joy Luck Club*
Thoreau, Henry David – *Walden*
Thurber, James – *The Thurber Carnival*
Turgenev, Ivan – *Sketches from a Hunter's Album*
Wells, H. G. – *The Time Machine*
Wilde, Oscar – *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Wilde, Oscar – *The Importance of Being Earnest*
Woolf, Virginia – *To the Lighthouse*
Wright, Richard – *Native Son*

For incoming 11th through 12th grade students:

Boethius – *The Consolation of Philosophy*
Dostoevsky, Fyodor – *The Brothers Karamazov*
Eliot, George – *Middlemarch*
Hugo, Victor – *Les Misérables*
McCarthy, Cormac – *All the Pretty Horses*
Plato – *Timaues*
Steinbeck, John – *East of Eden*
Tolstoy, Leo – *Anna Karenina*
Tolstoy, Leo – *The Death of Ivan Ilych*
Tolstoy, Leo – *War and Peace*