

Tab 1

SSA Junior School & Country Day Suggested Summer Reading 2025



Dear Shady Side Academy families,

As daylight lengthens and stretches towards summer, it is time for students to reach out and read. The Junior School and Country Day schools have created a combined list of Summer Reading titles for students' summer reading. All titles have been linked to the Carnegie Library catalog for you to see the title content and book availability.

Students in grades rising to second through fifth grade will be required to read at least 3 books over the summer.

Students entering first grade are encouraged to use the recommended titles for independent and family reading.

Students entering second and third grades must read two books from the Summer Reading list and a book of their own choosing for their third required title.

Students entering fourth and fifth grades must read the all-class required book, one book from the Summer Reading list, and a third title of their own choosing or from the official list.

While Shady Side Academy is a community of readers all year long, it is especially important for students to read during the summer. The right book in a reader's hands makes for an enjoyable escape from or exciting encounter with a new world. Summer reading also helps ensure that a student's interest in books, motivation to read, and reading level skills continue to grow. Research suggests that reading at least three books is needed to maintain a child's current reading level. It is the librarians' hope that your child will find many titles from the list to love this summer.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Courtney Anderson

Country Day School Librarian

Phyllis Guering

Junior School Librarian

Preventing the 'Summer Slide' [Tips from the Mayo Clinic](#)

Students Entering 1st Grade in the Fall

Family Read Alouds or Independent Reading

[Rabbit and Bear](#) (series) by Julian Gough & Jim Field

[Humphrey's Tiny Tales](#) Series by Betty Birney

[Book Buddies](#) (series) by Cynthia Lord

[The Princess in Black](#) (series) by Shannon Hale

[Zoey and Sassafras](#) (series) by Asia Citro

[The Rescues](#) (series) Tommy Greenwald

[Dino Files](#) series by Stacy McAnulty*

Independent Leveled Reading Choices

Students may choose any books from the following series:

[I Like to Read Comics series](#) - Holiday House/Penguin Books *

[Ready-To-Read series](#) by Jonathan Fenske*

[Ty's Travels series](#) by Kelly Starling Lyons *

[Zoey the Chicken](#) series by Adam Lehrhaupt *

[Fox series](#) by Corey Tabor *

[Geraldine Pu](#) series by Maggie P. Chang *

[Bradford Street Buddies](#) series by Jane Nolen *

[Fox Tails](#) series by Tina Kugler *

NONFICTION:

[National Geographic Kids](#) series *

[Giggle and Learn](#) series by Kevin McCloskey

For First Grade Students Entering 2nd Grade in the Fall

ANIMAL STORIES:

- [Pigsticks & Harold](#) (series) by Alex Milway *
- [Sydney and Taylor](#) series by Deborah Hocking*
- [Orris and Timble](#) by Kate DiCamillo
- [Bear and Bird](#) (series) by Jarvis
- [Heartwood Hotel](#) (series) by Kallie George *
- [Little Animal Rescue](#) (series) by Rachel Delahaye
- [Trim Sets Sail](#) by Deborah Hopkinson

FANTASY:

- [Dory Fantasmagory](#) (series) by Abby Hanlon *
- [The Dragonsitter](#) (series) by Josh Lacey*
- [Big Foot and Little Foot](#) (series) by Ellen Potter *
- [Kitty and the Moonlight Rescue](#) (series) by Paula Harrison

MYSTERY:

- [King and Kayla](#) (series) by Dori Butler *
- [Zach & Zoe Mysteries](#) (series) by Mike Lupica*
- [Detective Duck](#) (series) by Henry Winkler*
- [Wallace and Grace Take the Case](#) (series) by Heather Alexander

REALISTIC

- [Mo Jackson](#) (series) by David Adler*
- [Ellray Jakes](#) (series) by Sally Warner*
- [The Apartment House on Poppy Hill](#) by Nina LaCour

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- [Sir Ladybug](#) (series) by Corey Tabor*
- [Baloney and Friends](#) (series) by Greg Pizzoli *

NONFICTION

- [National Geographic Readers](#) by Laura Marsh *
- [Blastoff Readers! Natural Disasters](#) by Betsy Rathbone*

* indicates any book in the series

Students Entering 3rd Grade in the Fall

ANIMAL THEMES:

- [*Saving Winslow*](#) by Sharon Creech
- [*The Underdogs Catch a Cat Burglar*](#) (series) by Jol and Kate Temple *
- [*Lulu*](#) (series) by Hilary McKay *
- [*All the Best Dogs*](#) by Emily Jenkins

FANTASY:

- [*Best Wishes*](#) (series) by Sarah Mlynowski *
- [*Wicked Nix*](#) by Lena Coakley
- [*The 13 Story Treehouse*](#) (series) by Andy Griffiths *
- [*Magic on the Map*](#) (series) by Courtney Sheinmel*

HISTORICAL FICTION:

- [*I Survived*](#) (series) by Lauren Tarshis *
- [*Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet*](#) (series) by Jacqueline Kelly

MYSTERY:

- [*Mac B. Kid Spy*](#) (series) by Mac Barnett *
- [*The Secret Spy Society*](#) (series) by Veronica Mang*
- [*Wednesday and Woof*](#) (series) by Sherri Winston*
- [*Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All*](#) by Chanel Miller

REALISTIC FICTION:

- [*Disaster Squad*](#) by Rekha Rajan
- [*Ryan Hart*](#) (series) by Renee Watson*
- [*Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom*](#) (series) by Matthew Swanson *
- [*Beti and the Little Round House*](#) by Atinuke and Emily Hughes
- [*Bibsy Cross*](#) (series) by Liz Garton Scanlon
- [*J. D. and the Great Barber Battle*](#) (series) by J. Dillard
- [*Gracie Under the Waves*](#) by Linda Sue Park

SPORTS FICTION

- [*Jake Maddox Sports*](#) (series)
- [*Julia on the Go*](#) (series)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- [*InvestiGATORS*](#) (series) by John Patrick Green*
- [*Hilda*](#) (series) by Luke Pearson*

NONFICTION

- [*The Truth About...*](#) (series) by Maxwell Eaton III *
- [*Roberto Clemente*](#) or other biography picture book by Jonah Winter

* indicates any book in the series

Students Entering 4th Grade in the Fall

Students at the Junior School and Country Day are required to read: Bob by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass

ANIMAL THEMES:

- [Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow](#) by Elaine Dimopoulos
- [Dogtown](#) (series) by Kathryn Applegate*
- [Odder](#) by Katherine Applegate

FANTASY:

- [Leeva at Last](#) by Sara Pennypacker
- [The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart](#) by Stephanie Burgis
- [Once Upon a Tim](#) (series) by Stuart Gibbs
- [Honest June](#) (series) by Tina Wells*
- [Adventurers Guild](#) (series) by Zack Loren Clark *

HISTORICAL FICTION:

- [Ranger in Time](#) (series) by Kate Messner *
- [Echo Mountain](#) by Lauren Wolk

MYSTERY:

- [Trouble at the Tangerine](#) by Gillian McDunn
- [Spy Ring](#) by Sarah Beth Durst
- [Fun Jungle](#) (series) by Stuart Gibbs *

REALISTIC FICTION:

- [Ferris](#) by Kate DiCamillo
- [Birds on the Brain](#) by Uma Krishnaswami
- [The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street](#) (series) by Karina Yan Glaser *
- [Boba Time](#) by Pearl Li
- [Lucky Strike](#) by Bobby Pyron

SCIENCE FICTION:

- [Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat](#) (series) by Johnny Marciano *
- [Rover's Story](#) by Jasmine Warga

SPORTS FICTION:

- [Falling Short](#) by Ernesto Cisneros
- [Select](#) by Christy Matheson

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- [Hazardous Tales](#) (series) by Nathan Hale *
- [The Cartoonist Club](#) by Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud

NONFICTION

- [Marsupials](#) (or other animal books by Nic Bishop) *
- [Grand Canyon](#) (or other book by Jason Chin)
- [Mountain of Fire: The Eruption and Survivors of Mt. St. Helens](#) (Barone)

* indicates any book in the series

Students Entering 5th Grade in the Fall

Students at both the Country Day and the Junior School are required to read: Soar by Joan Bauer

ANIMAL STORIES

- [The Elephant in the Room](#) by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- [The Secret Language of Birds](#) by Lynne Kelly
- [The Last Bear](#) by Hannah Gold

FANTASY:

- [The Smartest Kid in the Universe](#) by Chris Grabenstein *
- [Amari and the Night Brothers](#) (series) by B.B. Alston *
- [The Incredible Dead Pets of Rex Dexter](#) (series) by Aaron Reynolds *
- [Lark and the Wild Hunt](#) by Jennifer Adam
- [Ice Wolves](#) (series) by Amie Kaufman *

HISTORICAL FICTION

- [Maizy Chen's Last Chance](#) by Lisa Yee
- [One Big Open Sky](#) by Lesa Cline-Ransom
- [Some Kind of Courage](#) by Dan Gemeinhart

MYSTERY

- [The Curious League of Detectives and Thieves](#) (series) by Tom Phillips *
- [The Explorer](#) by Katherine Rundell
- [Framed](#) (series) by James Ponti *
- [Mrs. Smith's Spy School for Girls](#) (series) by Beth McMullen *
- [Liars Society](#) (series) by Alyson Gerber *

REALISTIC FICTION

- [The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl](#) by Stacy McAnulty
- [Wink](#) by Rob Harrell
- [Firefly Summer](#) by Morgan Matson
- [Doughnut King](#) by Jessie Janowitz
- [Two Degrees](#) by Alan Gratz

SCIENCE FICTION

- [Lion of Mars](#) by Jennifer Holm
- [Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth](#) by Frank Cottrell Boyce

SPORTS FICTION

- [The Academy](#) (series) by T.Z. Lawton *

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- [Making Friends](#) (series) by Kristin Gudsnuik *
- [Ghost Book](#) or [Pawcasso](#) by Remy Lai

NONFICTION

- [History Smashers](#) (series) by Kate Messner*
- [The Great Wolf Rescue](#) (Science Discoveries series) by Sandra Markle *

* indicates students can read any book in the series