



# Summer Reading



**ST. LUKE'S**  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## SUMMER 2025

Dear Eighth Grade Families,

Welcome to summer! As your child continues their educational journey at St. Luke's Episcopal School, we invite you to share the joy of reading with your children. A strong foundation of reading at home is essential to a child's success in school, and we encourage you to take the initiative and run with it! Our goal in crafting this summer reading list was to offer recommendations that allow students to see themselves represented in literature and to explore the myriad perspectives that make our world so vibrant.

### Summer Reading Assignment

Over the summer, you are expected to read two books, but our enthusiastic recommendation is that you read at least five. One must be the required book listed below, and the other can be selected by the student. Below is a list of recommended books; however, feel free to explore beyond these suggestions—there's a whole universe of books out there! Don't forget to visit our local library to find these titles; getting a library card in your child's name will be an exciting adventure for them!

- Read the required book below. As you're reading, track your thoughts on the Summer Reading Project Worksheet (details below). The middle school will begin the year by completing collaborative activities related to this text.
- Choose a second book from the optional list of books below. When you are done reading, complete the Postcard (details below). When we return to school in the fall, you will prepare a book talk and present your Postcard to your classmates.

Required: ***Iron Hearted Violet* by Kelly Barnhill**

\*Within Middle School, students in each grade will read a different piece of fiction by the same author. Upon their return to school, they will work collaboratively on projects that further their understanding of themes and characterization.

### Optional List of Books:

*Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor (fantasy fiction, 2011)

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (classic fantasy fiction, 1865)

*Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys (historical fiction, 2011)

*Borders* by Thomas King (graphic novel, 2021)

*Call of the Wild* by Jack London (realistic fiction, 1903)

*Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan (realistic fiction, 2013)

*The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams (classic science fiction, 1979)

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott (historical fiction, 1868)

*Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds (realistic fiction, 2019)

*The Murderer's Ape* by Jakob Wegelius (adventure/mystery, 2017)

*No Summit Out of Sight* by Jordan Romero and Linda LeBlanc (nonfiction, 2014)

*Scribbles, Sorrows, and Russet Leather Boots: The Life of Louisa May Alcott* by Liz Rosenberg (biography, 2021)


*A Snake Falls to Earth* by Darcie Little Badger (fantasy fiction, 2021)

*Under the Mesquite* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall (historical fiction novel in verse, 2011)

We recommend books from the 2024-25 Texas Library Association's Lonestar list. [View the list here.](#)

## Postcard Assignment

This summer, our community reading project will create a fantastic opportunity for our students to come together, no matter where their adventures take them! We have attached a postcard for you to send to St. Luke's from your summer travels—or even from home. If you misplace this postcard, no need to worry! Feel free to send any postcard you find during your travels or stop by the school office to pick one up. We just ask that your child include a drawing or a few words about one of the books they read, and they can tie it to their experiences while traveling. When we're back in school this Fall, make sure to check out our display of postcards!

A blank postcard template. A vertical line divides the card into two sections. The left section is for the address. The right section contains a rectangular box in the top right corner for a stamp, and five horizontal lines below it for writing a message.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Summer Reading Project Worksheet**

### **Relating to Characters**

Which character did you relate to the most? Why?

Have you ever faced a situation like the one this character faced? How did you handle it similarly or differently?

### **Understanding Challenges**

What is the biggest challenge the main character faces?

Can you think of a time when you or someone you know faced a similar challenge? What was the outcome?

### **Exploring Decisions**

Think about a major decision a character made. Do you agree or disagree with what they chose to do? Why?

How would you have handled it if you were in their place?

### **Finding Themes**

What important lesson or message do you think the story is trying to teach?

Where do you see this lesson happening in real life (school, community, world)?

### **Personal Reflection**

What part of the book made you stop and think the most? Why?

Did anything in the story change the way you think about something in your own life?

### **Global Connection**

Is there a current event or issue happening today that reminds you of something from the book?

### **Creative Connection (Choose One)**

If you could bring one character from the book into your life, who would it be and what would you do together?

If you were to add yourself into the story, where would you fit in?