

PCA Suggested *Summer* Reading List

Middle School: Grades 6-8

The following titles represent a wide range of recommended reading for students in grades 6-8. As always, please use your discretion in helping your student choose what to read.

Little Women, Louisa Alcott

Recommended for its portrayal of strong moral values and Christian virtues such as kindness, generosity, and forgiveness, which resonate with young readers. The novel highlights the importance of family bonds and the power of faith to guide individuals through life's challenges, making it an inspiring and uplifting read for adolescents. Through the characters' journeys of growth and self-discovery, "Little Women" imparts valuable lessons about integrity, perseverance, and the pursuit of righteousness, making it a cherished classic for Christian families and schools alike.

Fever 1793, Laurie Halse Anderson

Recommended for its gripping depiction of courage and faith amidst adversity during the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Through the eyes of young protagonist Mattie Cook, readers witness the resilience of the human spirit and the power of community to overcome tragedy. This historical novel not only educates students about a significant event in American history but also inspires them to trust in God's providence and exhibit compassion towards others in times of crisis.

The War That Saved My Life, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Recommended for its powerful narrative of resilience, redemption, and the transformative power of love and faith. Through the story of Ada, a young girl evacuated from London during World War II, readers witness her journey of healing and self-discovery as she learns to overcome past trauma and embrace her worth in the eyes of God. This heartwarming novel not only educates students about the realities of war but also inspires them to find hope and strength in the midst of adversity, reminding them of God's unwavering presence and grace.

Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane

Recommended for its profound exploration of bravery, inner conflict, and personal growth during the Civil War. Through the experiences of young soldier Henry Fleming, readers are invited to reflect on the importance of courage, faith, and integrity in the face of fear and uncertainty. This classic novel offers valuable lessons on overcoming self-doubt and finding strength in God's guidance, making it an inspiring read.



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The Trumpeter of Krakow, Eric P. Kelly

A captivating historical novel that transports readers to the heart of medieval Poland. Filled with mystery, adventure, and a strong sense of faith, this tale follows a young boy and his family as they uncover ancient secrets and confront evil forces. Through its themes of courage, sacrifice, and the triumph of light over darkness, it instills important Christian values while sparking imaginations and fostering a love for history.

Elijah of Buxton, Christopher Paul Curtis

Recommended for its inspiring portrayal of faith, freedom, and community in a historical context. Through the adventures of Elijah, the first free-born child in a Canadian settlement of escaped slaves, readers learn about the importance of courage, perseverance, and trusting in God's plan. This engaging novel not only provides a rich understanding of history but also encourages young readers to value compassion, justice, and the power of helping others.

Catherine, Called Birdy, Karen Cushman

Recommended for its engaging and humorous portrayal of a young girl's life in medieval England, offering valuable lessons about individuality and faith. Through Catherine's diary entries, readers witness her struggles and growth, learning the importance of standing up for one's beliefs and trusting in God's guidance. This delightful novel encourages students to appreciate history, embrace their unique identities, and seek God's wisdom in their daily lives.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Recommended for its captivating stories that emphasize critical thinking, integrity, and the pursuit of truth. Through the brilliant detective work of Sherlock Holmes and the steadfast loyalty of Dr. Watson, readers learn the value of perseverance, moral courage, and using one's God-given talents for good. This classic collection of mysteries not only entertains but also encourages students to develop their problem-solving skills and uphold ethical principles in all they do.

The Samurai's Tale, Eric Haugaard

A captivating journey through feudal Japan, where honor, courage, and loyalty are central themes. Through the protagonist's adventures, students learn valuable lessons about resilience and the importance of staying true to one's beliefs, making it a meaningful and enriching read for our library collection.

Lifeboat 12, Susan Hood

Blending history with faith-filled resilience. It follows the harrowing true story of a young boy's survival aboard a lifeboat during World War II, showcasing the power of hope and community amidst adversity. Through its themes of courage and compassion, this novel inspires readers to trust in God's guidance even in the darkest of storms.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Victor Hugo

The timeless classic that offers more than just a captivating story; it's a tale rich in moral depth and spiritual reflection. Through the character of Quasimodo, students can explore themes of empathy, acceptance, and the inherent value of every human soul, echoing Christian teachings of love and compassion. Its vivid portrayal of medieval Paris and its underlying messages of redemption make it a valuable addition to your summer reading, sparking meaningful discussions about faith and forgiveness.



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Anne of Green Gables, L.M. Montgomery

The beloved classic that resonates deeply with readers of all ages, offering timeless lessons of grace, forgiveness, and the beauty of second chances. Through the adventures of the spirited Anne Shirley, students learn the importance of kindness, imagination, and the transformative power of love. Its wholesome storytelling and emphasis on virtues align with Christian values, making it a delightful and enriching read for readers young and no so young alike.

The Crossover, Kwame Alexander

An inspiring novel written in verse that celebrates family, faith, and the power of resilience. Through the story of twin brothers navigating life's challenges both on and off the basketball court, students learn valuable lessons about brotherhood, forgiveness, and the importance of staying true to one's beliefs. Its engaging narrative and heartfelt themes make it a compelling read that encourages reflection on the Christian virtues of compassion and perseverance.

Lions and Liars, Kate Beasley

A delightful adventure that combines faith, friendship, and courage in a captivating story suitable for middle school readers. As the protagonist, Frederick, embarks on a journey of self-discovery in the wilderness, students are reminded of the importance of trust, integrity, and standing up for what is right. Through its themes of redemption and the transformative power of honesty, this novel inspires young readers to embrace Christian values while enjoying an exciting tale of survival and friendship.

Space Trilogy, Lewis, C.S.

A remarkable series that intertwines science fiction with profound Christian themes. Through the adventures of Dr. Ransom across the cosmos, readers are invited to explore concepts of faith, morality, and the eternal battle between good and evil. This trilogy serves as a thought-provoking and spiritually enriching journey for young minds, encouraging deeper reflection on God's presence in the universe and the significance of redemption.

A Wrinkle in Time, Madeline D'Engle

A cherished classic that invites readers into a world of wonder and imagination while exploring profound spiritual themes. Through the journey of Meg Murry and her companions, students encounter messages of love, faith, and the triumph of good over evil. Its blend of science fiction and Christian allegory sparks curiosity and fosters meaningful discussions about the power of light to overcome darkness.

Ana Maria Does NOT Live in a Castle, Hilda Eunice Burgos

A touching and thought-provoking novel that resonates deeply with readers. Through Ana Maria's journey of self-discovery and resilience in the face of adversity, students learn valuable lessons about empathy, compassion, and the importance of finding strength in faith. Its themes of social justice and the inherent dignity of every individual reflect Christian teachings, making it a poignant and enriching read for middle schoolers.



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Ambrose Deception, Emily Ecton

A captivating mystery that engages young readers with its clever puzzles and intriguing plot twists. As students follow the intertwined stories of three contestants competing for a scholarship, they uncover themes of honesty, integrity, and the consequences of deceit. Its emphasis on the importance of truth and moral character aligns with Christian values, making it a compelling and thought-provoking novel for middle schoolers.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, E.L. Konigsberg.

A delightful adventure that celebrates curiosity, creativity, and the joy of discovery. Through the escapades of Claudia and Jamie as they run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, students embark on a journey of selfdiscovery and appreciation for the beauty of art and history. Its themes of family, friendship, and the pursuit of truth resonate with Christian values, making it a captivating and morally uplifting read for middle schoolers.

The Lord of the Rings trilogy, J.R.R. Tolkien.

Epic tales of courage, friendship, and the battle between good and evil that captivates readers with its rich storytelling and profound themes. Through the trials and triumphs of Frodo and his companions, students are reminded of the importance of faith, sacrifice, and standing firm in the face of adversity. Its timeless messages of hope, redemption, and the ultimate victory of light over darkness resonate deeply with Christian beliefs, making it a compelling and spiritually enriching read for middle schoolers.

Apollo 8: The Mission that Changed Everything, Martin W. Sandler An awe-inspiring journey through history that highlights the courage, ingenuity, and faith of the astronauts aboard the first mission to orbit the moon. Through captivating storytelling and vivid illustrations, students are transported to the thrilling days of the Space Race, where humanity's quest for exploration intersected with profound moments of reflection and wonder. Its exploration of the vastness of space and the wonders of God's creation instills a sense of awe and humility, encouraging young readers to marvel at the mysteries of the universe while embracing the enduring truths of faith.

Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition, Margot Lee Shetterly. An inspiring portrayal of the remarkable contributions of African American women to the space program amidst the challenges of segregation. Through the stories of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, students discover the power of perseverance, determination, and faith in overcoming obstacles. Its portrayal of these unsung heroes serves as a testament to the dignity and worth of every individual, echoing Christian principles of equality and justice.

Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust, Michael Hingson. A deeply moving memoir that recounts the incredible bond between a blind man and his guide dog during the tragic events of 9/11. Through Michael Hingson's experiences, students learn about courage, trust, and the strength found in relying on God's guidance even in the darkest moments. Its portrayal of resilience and faith amidst adversity serves as a powerful reminder of God's presence and protection, inspiring young readers to embrace challenges with hope and determination.

