

**St. Rose of Lima Academy
Middle School Summer Reading List**

Note to Students and Parents: The numbers following the titles of the books in this list are Lexile text measures that may be able to help you choose a book appropriate to your reading level.

A Lexile text measure is based on two strong predictors of how difficult a text is to comprehend: word frequency and sentence length. Many other factors affect the relationship between a reader and a book, including its content, the age and interests of the reader, and the design of the actual book. The Lexile text measure is a good starting point in the book selection process, with these other factors then being considered. Lexile text measures are rounded to the nearest 10L.

A very broad rule of thumb equates the following grade levels and lexile scores.

<u>Lexile #</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Lexile #</u>	<u>Grade</u>
800	5.0	950	6.7
825	5.2	975	7.0
850	5.5	1000	7.4
875	5.8	1025	7.8
900	6.0	1050	8.2
925	6.4	1075	8.6
		1100	9.0

The Lexile text measure does not address the suitability of content. Books that are appropriate for older or more mature students are marked with an asterisk.

FICTION

In addition to the titles on this list, students may read any of the Newbery Award winning books. You can find a list of winners at www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.cfm

Percy Jackson and The Olympians Rick Riordan 590L-740L

In a series of books, Percy Jackson and his friends deal with various disasters and near disasters as well as the problems associated with being the children of Greek gods.

The Thief Lord Cornelia Funke 640L

When their mother dies, two young boys escape to Venice to avoid an aunt who only wants to adopt one of them. They fall in with a gang of young thieves and a mysterious plot to obtain a piece of a magical merry-go-round.

Elsewhere Gabrielle Zevin 720L

Fifteen-year-old Liz Hall, the victim of a hit-and-run driver, wakes up on a ship to Elsewhere. Life on Elsewhere seems to be the opposite of life here; you age in reverse until, as a baby, you once again sail to Earth.

***The Book Thief** Markus Zusak 730L

This is a story told by Death set in Germany during World War II. It is also a story of a young girl, who in spite of having a life that no one would wish on anyone, still manages to have glimpses of pleasure through many small things, including the few books that she manages to acquire (that is to say, steal).

A Wrinkle in Time Madeleine L'Engle 740L

This is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract (the wrinkle) problem.

When You Reach Me Rebecca Stead 750L

A 6th grade New Yorker deals with losing her best friend, helping her mother win a TV quiz show and receiving messages from someone who appears to know the future. Because she is so devoted to Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, this last item doesn't seem so unlikely to her.

Hoot Carl Hiaasen 760L

Readers plunge right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies--three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system.

***Lord of the Flies** William Golding 770L

Shipwrecked English schoolboys set up their own civilization but savagery emerges as the fabric of society is slowly ripped away as the rules are discarded one by one.

Inkheart Cornelia Funke 780L

(Also sequels **Inkspell** 890L; **Inkdeath** 830L)

Meggie lives a quiet life alone with her father, a bookbinder. But her father has a deep secret-- he possesses an extraordinary magical power - he can "read" characters out of books into real life. One day a mysterious stranger arrives who seems linked to her father's past. Who is this sinister character and what does he want?

The Hunger Games Trilogy Suzanne Collins 810L

The Hunger Games
Catching Fire
Mockingjay

In a post-apocalyptic future, the United States has collapsed and has been replaced by Panem – the Capitol and its twelve districts. Every year, each district is required to send 2 youths to oppose each other in a televised fight to the death. Katniss Everdeen has volunteered to take the place of her younger sister in these gladiatorial games that spell death for most but a chance for a better life for the victors

Scat Carl Hiaasen 810L

The book begins with the disappearance of a biology teacher after a fire breaks out during a field trip in the Everglades. The immediate suspect is a young miscreant, but friends Nick and Marta figure something else is afoot: it might have something to do with the nefarious oilmen slinking about nearby, as well as the rumor of an endangered panther and her cubs in the swamp.

The Graveyard Book Neil Gaiman 820L

A young boy escapes the murderous fate of his entire family by hiding in a cemetery. The dead adopt and raise him giving him unique gifts and a different perspective on life.

Flush Carl Hiaasen 830L

A young brother and sister search for evidence that will help exonerate their father who sank a casino boat in the Florida Keys because he suspected the owner of dumping raw sewage into the local waters.

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

The Fellowship of the Ring 860L;

The Two Towers 810L;

The Return of the King 920L

The epic fantasy trilogy. The three books follow hobbits, men and elves who share a quest to destroy the ring of power that can control and destroy all of Middle Earth.

***Shane** Jack Schaefer 870L

One of the classic Westerns. A mysterious drifting gunman helps homesteaders break the power of the Wyoming cattlemen.

The Mysterious Benedict Society Trenton Lee Stewart 890L

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey 890L

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma 900L

By completing a series of challenging and creative tasks, four uniquely talented children are selected by the mysterious Mr. Benedict to help him defeat the equally mysterious Mr. Curtain. Throughout the three exciting adventures that are the bases of these books, the children use their unusual gifts to save each other and benefit society. The series emphasizes the power of friendship and working together while also taking on such serious topics as media manipulation.

Inside the Walls of Troy A Novel of the Women Who Lived the Trojan War

Clemence McLaren 900L

The story of the Trojan War from two points of view beginning with the divinely beautiful Helen, who recounts her own history. The remainder of the book is narrated by Paris' sister Cassandra, who experiences painful visions of the future but can get no one to believe her.

5 Novels Daniel M. Pinkwater 920L

Titles Featured Are **Alan Mendelsohn, The Boy From Mars, Slaves Of Spiegel, The Last Guru, Young Adult Novel, The Snarkout Boys And The Avocado Of Death**

The story of the Snarkout Boys is told from the viewpoint of Walter Galt, a teenager on the verge of dying from boredom at Genghis Khan High School, until he meets Winston Bongo, another suffering student and the self-proclaimed inventor of "snarking out" (which involves sneaking out of your house late at night, going to the movie theater, hanging out, and sneaking back home without getting caught.)

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe Douglas Adams 1000L

Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, Arthur Dent is plucked off the planet by his friend Ford Prefect, a researcher for the revised edition of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" who, for the last fifteen years, has been posing as an out-of-work actor. Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from "The Hitchhiker's Guide".

The Phantom Tollbooth Norman Juster 1000L

The bored young protagonist who can't see the point to anything is knocked out of his humdrum by the sudden appearance of a tollbooth in his bedroom. Since Milo has absolutely nothing better to do, he dusts off his toy car, pays the toll, and drives through. What ensues is a journey of mythic proportions, during which Milo encounters countless odd characters who are anything but dull.

The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkien 1000L

Bilbo Baggins, a typically home-loving Hobbit, is lured from his peaceful existence by the wizard Gandalf and a demanding gaggle of dwarves. He plays an important role in the dwarves' plan to reclaim a stolen fortune from the dragon Smaug. Along the way, they meet giant spiders, hostile elves, ravaging wolves--and, most perilous of all, a subterranean creature named Gollum from whom Bilbo wins a magical ring in a riddling contest. It is from this life-or-death game in the dark that The Lord of the Rings would eventually spring.

The Egypt Game Zilpha Keatley Snyder 1010L

An unlikely band of children, enthralled by the mysteries of the pharaohs, withdraws from daily life into an elaborate game of make-believe in their own Egypt. Combine exotica with murder and an enigmatic professor, and one has the makings of a super mystery.

Treasure Island Robert Louis Stevenson 1100L

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of an inn and her son find a treasure Map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.

Wizard of Earthsea (Book 1 in the "Earthsea" Cycle) Ursula LeGuin 1150L

Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but once he was a reckless youth, hungry for power and knowledge, who tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tale of how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed a dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

The Last Unicorn Peter S. Beagle (Lexile Score Not Available)

A unicorn, a haphazard wizard, and a spunky scullery woman journey to the dreaded kingdom of Haggard, to confront an evil ruler who, with the help of a bull-shaped demon, imprisons all the unicorns of the world.

***Whale Rider** Witi Ihimaera (Lexile Score Not Available)

A stubborn Maori tribal leader in New Zealand refuses to see the gift his only grandchild can bring to the legends of the past simply because she is a girl.

Moon Over Manifest Clare Vanderpool (Lexile Score Not Available)

This 2011 Newbery Award winner interweaves several time periods and stories to tell a rich and complex tale involving murder, orphans, bootlegging, war, the Great Depression and a mother in hiding.

NONFICTION

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** Betty Smith 810L

A young girl comes of age in the squalor and poverty of Brooklyn slums.

Chinese Cinderella Adeline Yen Mah 960L

The author tells the story of her painful childhood in China where she lived until the age of fourteen with her father, stepmother and siblings, all of whom considered her bad luck because her mother died in childbirth.

Seabiscuit: An American Legend Laura Hillenbrand 990L

This is the spellbinding story of a horse that runs with a duck waddle, a jockey (Red Pollard) who is blind in one eye, a trainer (Tom Smith) who is practically mute, and an owner (Charles Howard) who brought cars to the West. This unlikely group of misfits joins together through chance to devote their love, skills, and energy into turning Seabiscuit into one of the most phenomenal horse racing legends.

The Wright Sister: Katharine Wright and her Famous Brothers Richard Maurer 1010L

Working from Katharine Wright's papers, correspondence and family archives, Maurer chronicles the events surrounding Wilbur and Orville while filling in the details of their youngersister's life and their relationships.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow Susan Campbell Bartoletti 1050L

Hitler's plans for the future of Germany relied significantly on its young people and this excellent history shows that he attempted to carry out his mission with the establishment of the Hitler Youth, or Hitlerjugend. Bartoletti explains the roles that millions of boys and girls unwittingly played in the horrors of the Third Reich. She also explores the stories of the few who were willing to give up their lives to oppose the evil they saw consuming their homeland.

Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley

Sally M. Walker 1060L

After sinking a Union sloop near Charleston, South Carolina in 1864, the Hunley did not return to port. Although divers searched for more than 130 years, the sub was not found until 1995. Archaeologists have carefully raised the Hunley and sifted through tons of sediment searching for artifacts and human remains and clues to why, when and how the vessel sank.

***The Diary of a Young Girl** Anne Frank 1080L

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's diary is a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and a eloquent testament to the human spirit.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance Jennifer Armstrong 1090L

In 1914 Ernest Shackleton led an expedition to attempt a land crossing of the Antarctic. His ship, the Endurance, was trapped and eventually crushed by the ice and sank. This is the story of the amazing journey of Shackleton and his crew back to civilization from the middle of nowhere in the icy southern Atlantic.

Lincoln A Photobiography Russell Freedman 1110L
Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

Bodies from the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii James Deem 1120L
This photo-essay shows what happened when Mt. Vesuvius exploded in 79 AD and how the results of this disaster were discovered hundreds of years later. Dramatic photos of casts made of the remains of victims capture the horror of this event and help us to envision day-to-day life in ancient Pompeii.