

DCS Summer Reading List

1st Grade:

1. Alphabet Mystery by Audrey Wood
2. Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
3. The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

2nd Grade:

Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne

3rd Grade:

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

4th Grade:

Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing by Judy Blume

5th Grade:

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

6th Grade:

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

7th Grade:

Restart by Gordon Korman

8th Grade Non-Honors:

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom

8th Grade Honors:

1. The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom **AND**
2. A book of your choice from the reading list options below

9th Grade Non-Honors

Animal Farm by George Orwell

9th Grade Honors:

1. Animal Farm by George Orwell **AND**
2. A book of your choice from the reading list options below

10th Grade Non-Honors:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

10th Grade Honors:

1. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen **AND**
2. A book of your choice from the reading list options below

11th Grade Non-Honors:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

11th Grade Honors:

1. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain **AND**
2. A book of your choice from the reading list options below

12th Grade Non-Honors:

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

12th Grade Honors:

1. *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien **AND**
2. A Book of your choice from the reading list options below

Honors Reading List Options**Louisa May Alcott – Little Women**

A coming-of-age story about four sisters growing up during the Civil War. Themes include family, virtue, sacrifice, and personal growth.

Bess Streeter Aldrich – A Lantern in Her Hand

A pioneer woman's life story, rich with themes of sacrifice, perseverance, and family legacy.

William H. Armstrong – Souder

A powerful novel about a sharecropping family facing hardship and injustice. Themes include dignity, perseverance, and family strength.

Stephen Crane – The Red Badge of Courage

A psychological exploration of fear, courage, and identity during the Civil War.

Elizabeth George Speare – The Witch of Blackbird Pond

A historical novel about courage, compassion, and standing against prejudice in Puritan New England.

Elizabeth George Speare – The Bronze Bow

A Christian-themed historical novel set in the time of Jesus, exploring forgiveness and transformation.

Irene Hunt – Across Five Aprils

A coming-of-age story set during the Civil War, focusing on moral growth and family loyalty.

Ernest Hemingway – The Old Man and the Sea

A short but profound story about endurance, pride, and struggle, rich in symbolism.

Jack London – White Fang

A companion novel to *The Call of the Wild*, focusing on the taming of a wild wolf-dog and themes of nature vs. nurture.

Willie Morris – Taps: A Novel

A reflective Southern novel about adolescence, community, and the impact of war.

Willie Morris – The Last of the Southern Girls

A Southern novel exploring identity, culture, and personal growth.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings – The Yearling

A Pulitzer-winning coming-of-age story about responsibility, loss, and family.

Harriet Beecher Stowe – Uncle Tom's Cabin

A major American novel addressing slavery, morality, and Christian compassion.

John Steinbeck – The Pearl

A parable-like story about greed, hope, and human nature, rich in symbolism.

John Steinbeck – Of Mice and Men

A tragic story of friendship, dreams, and human dignity during the Great Depression.

Mildred D. Taylor – Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

A powerful novel about family, justice, and racial tension in the 1930s South.

Mark Twain – The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

A humorous and adventurous novel exploring childhood, mischief, and moral growth.

Eudora Welty – The Optimist's Daughter

A Pulitzer-winning novel about grief, memory, and family relationships.

Eudora Welty – Delta Wedding

A richly detailed Southern family novel exploring tradition, relationships, and identity.

Eudora Welty – The Ponder Heart

A comic Southern novella with themes of innocence, misunderstanding, and community.

Charles Sheldon – In His Steps

A Christian classic exploring moral choices and social responsibility

J.K. Rowling — Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone

This novel follows an orphaned boy who discovers he is a wizard, enters the magical world of Hogwarts, and uncovers a dangerous mystery tied to his past and the powerful Sorcerer's Stone.

Markus Zusak — The Book Thief

Novel that tells the story of a young girl in Nazi Germany who finds hope, courage, and the power of words by stealing books and sharing them during one of history's darkest times.

Paulo Coelho — The Alchemist

This novel follows a young shepherd named Santiago as he journeys across the desert in search of treasure and discovers deeper truths about purpose, destiny, and following his dreams.

Yann Martel — Life of Pi

This novel tells the story of a teenage boy stranded at sea after a shipwreck who survives through faith, resilience, and an extraordinary bond with a Bengal tiger.

Christopher Paolini — Eragon

This novel follows a farm boy who discovers a dragon egg, is drawn into an ancient war, and begins a journey that will shape the fate of his world.

Veronica Roth — Divergent

Novel that follows a teenage girl in a divided future society who discovers she doesn't fit into any one faction and must uncover the truth about the world around her.

Orson Scott Card — Ender's Game

This novel follows a gifted young boy recruited into an elite military training program where his intelligence, leadership, and moral choices may determine humanity's survival.

Agatha Christie — Murder on the Orient Express

Mystery novel that follows detective Hercule Poirot as he investigates a murder aboard a luxury train, uncovering secrets among the passengers and a mystery where everyone is a suspect.

Holly Jackson — A Good Girls Guide to Murder

Mystery novel that follows a determined high school student who reopens a closed murder case for a school project and uncovers secrets that put her own life at risk.