



Dear Parents,

Reading is one of the most important skills there is. Indeed, it is the foundation of almost all future learning for your child at Hilldale School and beyond. Families who encourage daily reading and writing will have more successful children. Your support at home is essential!

Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a back slide in reading skills during the summer down time. But that need not be the case! Families can make reading a priority during the summer. You can help your child succeed by the positive attitude you take toward reading to your child and hearing him/her read to you, by the expressive voice intonation you use, by questioning about what you and your child have read and about what your child can see in a book's pictures, and by the encouragement you express to your child as they try out their reading in a variety of venues. Please help to make reading a priority during the coming summer!

Every Hilldale student is encouraged to read as much as possible during the summer vacation. A list of recommended titles follows, and each student is **required** to read The Book of Three. We will start the year off by discussing this story and doing corresponding activities during the opening days of school, so please make sure your child is ready to participate. We hope you will supplement the required reading with other books that you and your child choose from this or any other summer reading list.

Summer Reading List—Incoming Fifth Grade

Overall Themes: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Identity, & Personal Awareness

Time Period Theme: Medieval through Modern World History

**Required for all:**

The Book of Three

Lloyd Alexander

**Suggestions:**

Time Cat: The Remarkable Journeys of Jason & Gareth

Lloyd Alexander

Prydain Series

Lloyd Alexander

[Will Sparrow's Road\\*](#)

Karen Cushman

[Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village\\*](#)

Laura Amy Schlitz

The Birchbark House

Louise Erdrich

Shabunu: Daughter of the Wind

Suzanne Fisher Staples

[The Light in the Forest\\*](#)

Conrad Richter

The Little Princess

Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Dark is Rising

Susan Cooper

Stargirl

Jerry Spinelli

Maniac Magee

Jerry Spinelli

Black Star, Bright Dawn

Scott O'Dell

Hatchet

Gary Paulsen

Messenger

Lois Lowry

Gathering Blue

Lois Lowry

My Side of the Mountain

Jean Craighead George

\*More mature themes (see Common Sense Media review or GoodReads review if former is not available)