2024 Camillus Middle School 7th to 8th Grade Summer Reading

Participation is mandatory for every student entering 8th grade. Below is the list of summer reading books selected from varying literary genres from which your child will select. Many of these books are of high interest at typical reading levels. Others may be written at a more challenging reading level or contain more mature content.

**Parental review and assistance is expected to help children find literature that is both content appropriate and meets a comfortable reading level for your child.**

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor

Meet Mason Buttle, the biggest, sweatiest student in middle school. Mason struggles with friends after the mysterious death of his best friend the previous year. He wants to help the police investigation but has a difficult time remembering every detail. Calvin Chumsky befriends Mason and the two boys find themselves bullied by a group of boys at school. When Calvin now goes missing, Mason finds himself in a heap of trouble again. He’s desperate to figure out what happened to Benny and Calvin. But even if he does, will anyone believe him? A story of true friendship that will have you cheering for the underdog!

White Bird by R.J. Palacio

In this graphic novel, which is a prequel to his New York Times bestseller, Wonder, Palacio introduces Julian’s grandmother, Sara Blum. Set in France during World War II, the reader is drawn into Sara’s world as a young Jewish girl forced to hide during the Nazi occupation of her hometown. She finds a friend in a classmate, a boy she previously ignored, Julian. His boldness and courage, along with Sara’s resilience, demonstrate just how strong the human spirit can be even faced with the worst of circumstances. Full of beautiful illustrations, the novel portrays light in one of history’s darkest eras.

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Only the living can make the world better. Jerome Rogers, a 12-year-old black boy living in Chicago, is killed by a white police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, he observes the devastation his death unleashed on his family and community. Soon, he meets other ghosts, like Emmett Till, who have lost their lives to racial violence. But when he realizes that Sarah, the daughter of the white police officer who shot him, is the only one who can see him, he’s left to wonder why. What’s the lesson they must learn?

One Last Shot by John David Anderson

Malcolm hates most sports, especially baseball. The problem is, his father LOVES it and Malcolm wants desperately to please him but never feels good enough. When the opportunity arises to finally quit the sport he hates, he does, and takes up miniature golf. Malcolm finds he’s very good at it and he loves to play! His father, as usual, goes overboard and finds him a golf coach. Maybe if Malcolm can ace the tournament, his Dad will finally leave him alone? The pressure is on and Malcolm has one last shot!

Deep Water by Watt Key

It’s the most important rule of SCUBA diving, if you don’t feel right, don’t go down. After her Dad falls ill, 12-year-old Julie assists two of their clients on a dive off the Alabama coast. When the pair disregards her advice, trouble ensues and one of the divers is now in serious condition. Things get worse when Julie realizes their diving boat - along with her Dad - has vanished! Time is running out and only Julie can save them. A nail-biting, suspenseful survival tale.

Cookies and Milk by Shawn Amos

Ellis Johnson spends the summer of 1976 hanging out with friends, listening to music, and playing his harmonica. He also works to help his father open the world’s first chocolate chip cookie store. As he helps his dad flip a storefront into a cookie store, Ellis solves a family mystery and learns the value of hard work. This semi-autobiographical young adult novel chronicles Shawn Amos’s own experiences growing up the son of Wally “Famous” Amos. This book is packed with 1970’s references, coming of age and learning about family.