

Expected Canon of Classic Children's Literature

Saint Rita Catholic School

Inaugurated 2022-2023

Over the course of a student's years with us, specifically between third and eighth grade, we expect him or her to read this canon of classic children's literature. More titles may be added over time. This can be done over the summers or school holidays, or in addition to the regularly assigned reading during the school year. Parents can read these books to their children, or the children can read them with friends or family members in informal book clubs - or feel free to get them on audio books for car trips!

Our school parents will be the coaches for this reading list, incentivizing, enforcing, and pacing their own children in a way that works well for their family. There will sometimes be a school assignment relating to one of these books.

The school's 2022 Summer Reading Assignment, for rising 3rd to 8th graders, is to give a talk to the class on ONE of the titles in our Expected Canon. This talk will be given on Friday, September 2, 2022, *and children are to come dressed as a character from that book and/or with props or a visual aid (poster illustration, diorama) depicting something from the book.* For that assignment, students should be prepared to:

- Give the title and author of the book
- Summarize the plot and describe some of the characters
- Identify any themes (for older students) or their favorite thing about the book (for younger students)
- Explain their costuming, props, or visual aids

Most of these books can be read (or listened to) by children of all ages, but a parenthetical note is included for books more appropriate for middle schoolers.

Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens (middle school)

Chronicles of Narnia, by C. S. Lewis (several read as part of 3rd grade curriculum)

The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien (encouraged for rising 6th graders - school copies are available to borrow over the summer)

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll

Peter Pan, by J.M. Barrie

The Jungle Book, by Rudyard Kipling

Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson (read in 3rd grade curriculum)

Heidi, by Johanna Spyri

Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe

The Swiss Family Robinson, by Johann D. Wyss

Ivanhoe, by Walter Scott (middle school)

The Three Musketeers, by Alexandre Dumas (version read in 3rd grade curriculum)

The Little Prince, by Antoine de St.-Exupéry

Black Beauty, by Anna Sewell

Call of the Wild, by Jack London (middle school)

Gulliver's Travels, by Jonathan Swift

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, by Jules Verne (middle school)

The Complete Sherlock Holmes, by Arthur Conan Doyle (middle school)

Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain (middle school)

Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Anne of Green Gables, by Lucy Maud Montgomery

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, by L. Frank Baum

Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott (middle school)

Little House on the Prairie, by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Pippi Longstocking, by Astrid Lindgren

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor (middle school)

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E.L. Konigsburg (encouraged for rising 4th graders because Miss Walker is a particular fan! School copies available to borrow over the summer)

Danny the Champion of the World, Matilda, Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, James and the Giant Peach (all are recommended, any 2 are required), by Roald Dahl

Charlotte's Web and *Trumpet of the Swan*, by E.B. White

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeleine L'Engle (middle school)