

Summer Reading 2026

Dear Providence Academy Families,

Summer provides excellent opportunities to read! Providence Academy, through the English department, has developed an exciting summer reading plan that encourages students to read age-appropriate, excellent literature! According to *Learner*, an online resource for educators and students alike, students who read over the summer break return to school more able and ready to learn, experiencing a smoother transition between grade levels, especially in reading. We hope that you will join your children as they embrace the beauty and joy of reading great literature and trust that this may also be an opportunity for you to read alongside your children as research supports the value of parent involvement in a child's growth in reading skills. The English teachers are looking forward to conversations about the novels at the start of the new school year. "First weeks of school activities" in English classes will directly relate to the content of these stories, so we trust you will consider when students read these selections so that students arrive prepared for discussions and assessments.

Families are responsible for purchasing summer reading books for their students; except for upcoming ninth graders and seniors, a specific edition is not required. Please ensure your student brings their copy of the summer reading book to class the first two weeks of school. Details regarding specific book selections for each grade and suggestions for how you can participate in your students' education this summer are listed below. Thank you for encouraging your children to love great literature and for supporting their success during the first weeks of the 2025-2026 academic year!

In Christ,

Dr. Dustin Williams
Elementary Principal

3rd Grade
***Medallion* by Dawn Watkins**

Medallion has been a favorite of PA students for over a decade. Published by BJU Press, this book provides many opportunities to discuss Christian character with your student. Join Prince Trave on his adventures to regain control of his kingdom from his irresponsible uncle and save it from foreign attack. Before he can become king, however, he first must prove his worthiness by becoming a Christ-like leader for his people. *Medallion* can be purchased from Amazon as well as other online sources.

Here are some opportunities to enhance your summer activities and family discussion:

- What is pride? What is arrogance? Why is it hurtful to others and to ourselves?
- What is humility? How did Christ demonstrate humility? Read examples from the Gospels and Philippians 2.
- What does it look like to be a Christ-like leader?
- As a family, find a way to serve those who are less fortunate in our community. For example, consider serving a local food bank.

4th Grade
***The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White**

The classic children's story, *The Trumpet of the Swan*, by E.B. White, tells about a young swan, Louis, who is born mute at a remote lake in Canada. In overcoming his inability to communicate, Louis teaches himself other ways to connect with his family and friends and travels the continent through the process! *The Trumpet of the Swan* can be purchased from Amazon as well as other online sources and local bookstores.

Here are some ideas to enhance your summer activities and family discussion:

- There is a lot of traveling in this story, from Canada to Boston to the Rocky Mountains. You can help your student locate the places featured in the book on a map. If you are taking a family trip this summer, you could include the locations of your family vacation.
- Trumpeter swans are migratory birds that have a history as an endangered species. Look up information about this bird online and maybe even listen to its "trumpet." Here is a suggested website:
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Trumpeter_Swan/overview#.
- Consider learning more about other migratory birds this summer or simply spend time watching and identifying birds in your backyard or a local park. Practice sitting quietly like Sam Beaver so you can observe the animals better.
- Do you know someone who owns a trumpet? See if they will demonstrate their instrument to your student, maybe play "Taps," which is featured in the book.
- Which characters in the book are respectful and which are disrespectful? What actions do these characters take that helped you determine this? What are ways we can treat those who are different from us with respect?
- Honesty and integrity are important to Louis as he earns money to pay for his trumpet. Why is it important to work and pay for the things we want?
- How did Louis persevere in the story? Encourage your student to persevere through challenges they face this summer.

5th Grade
***Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry**

Paul and Maureen Beebe had a dream—to buy a horse and its foal during the yearly pony run on Chincoteague Island. Though fiction, the book is based on a true story and tells of the Beebe family and their horses, who lived on a horse farm on Chincoteague Island. The book details the determination and hard work that allowed the siblings to accomplish their dream, with Phantom and Misty eventually living on the farm. Today Chincoteague and Assateague islands, on the eastern coast of Maryland and Virginia, continue to host Pony Penning Day the last week of July each year; and Misty and her descendants continue to attract visitors to the islands.

As you read the book, if you do not know the meanings of some of the words, look them up, and write their meanings in the margins of your book. Also, you will probably want to do some research on Pony Penning Day and the wild horses of Assateague and Chincoteague. (Maybe some day you can even visit there!)

Here are some things to think about as you read and discuss with your family:

- Why do Paul and Maureen work so hard to buy the Phantom and her foal? What does their determination say about their values and relationship with animals?
- Do you think Grandpa Beebe's approach to teaching Paul and Maureen responsibility is effective? Why or why not?
- How does Paul change over the course of the novel? What experiences influence his growth the most?
- If you were Paul or Maureen, would you have made the same decision about Misty at the end of the book? Why or why not?
- What do you think Marguerite Henry wanted readers to learn or feel after reading *Misty of Chincoteague*? Do you think she was successful?