

2026 Summer Reading Assignment for Rising 7th Grade

Dear Rising 7th Grader,

Congratulations on finishing your sixth-grade year with your fantastic teachers and peers at Holy Redeemer! Over the summer, we ask that you relax, enjoy some special family time, try something new, and don't forget to read!

Speaking of reading, Mrs. Enkiri and I have been discussing books a lot! We decided on the book that *every* 7th grader will be expected to read this summer. The title of the book is The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Young Readers Edition, and it is written by William Kamkwamba. This book is readily available in bookstores (new and secondhand!).

As a part of your reading of this book, you will be expected to *annotate* the text like we did in sixth grade. Your handwriting must be legible, and you may use highlighter and pencil to make your annotations. As a reminder, solely underlining and highlighting is not annotating. This book will be turned in for a grade on the first day of school.

You may choose one other book to read from the list below for your enjoyment. I will have a brief, fun quiz on what happened in the book for you to take when you return to school. ☺ That will be your only assignment for the second book. ☺

2nd Book Selections: (Your choice whether or not to annotate)

Million Dollar Throw, Mike Lupica

What would you do with a million dollars, if you were 13? Eighth-grader Nate Brodie is nicknamed 'Brady' not only for his arm, but also because he's the biggest Tom Brady fan. He's even saved up to buy an autographed football. And when he does, he wins the chance for something he's never dreamed of: to throw a pass through a target at a Patriots game for one million dollars. Nate should be excited. But things have been tough lately. His dad lost his job and his family is losing their home. It's no secret that a million dollars would go a long way. So all Nate feels is pressure, and just when he needs it most, his golden arm begins to fail him. Even worse, his best friend Abby is going blind, slowly losing her ability to do the one thing she loves most: paint. Yet Abby never complains, and she is Nate's inspiration. He knows she'll be there when he makes the throw of a lifetime.

Flora & Ulysses, Kate DiCamillo

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!*, is the just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry — and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart

Hate That Cat, Sharon Creech

From Amazon, "The Newbery Medal-winning author of Walk Two Moons, Sharon Creech, introduced Jack in Love That Dog, a New York Times bestseller. Both Love That Dog and Hate That Cat are approachable, funny, warm-hearted introductions to poetry told from the point of view of a very real kid wrestling with school assignments.

In Hate That Cat, Jack is only trying to save that fat black cat stuck in the tree by his bus stop—but the cat scratches him instead! At school Miss Stretchberry begins teaching new poems, everything from William Carlos Williams to Valerie Worth to T.S. Eliot.”

The Wild Robot, Peter Brown

Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is-- but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

So, as a recap, you need to read two books this summer; of course read more if possible! Have a wonderful summer and please reach out to me via email if you should have any questions. My email is k.parker@hrs-ken.org. Please ask permission from a parent to contact me, and cc a parent on the email. I cannot wait for seventh grade literature class!

Sincerely,

Ms. Parker ☺

Middle School Literature and 8th Grade Homeroom

Holy Redeemer Catholic School