



Dear Parents and Students,

One key to students' reading success is making their reading experiences entertaining, relaxing, and enjoyable. Allowing children to choose their own reading materials based on their reading interests is one way to ensure academic success.

Brito Miami Private School feels it is imperative that we provide our students with as many opportunities as possible to grow academically. Reading for understanding and appreciation is a skill that translates effectively into every academic area. The purpose of the summer reading program is to provide students with the opportunity to select works which are of literary merit from lists developed by their language arts teachers. We hope to encourage reading for pleasure as well as reading for enlightenment, and we want to emphasize that the following summer reading list should be thought of as a starting point as they prepare to enter school in the fall.

Students must read two books, one of their choice that is grade-level appropriate and one from the following list. Students from the elementary level should fill out the attached Summer Reading Form and bring it to their Language Arts teacher the first week of class. Middle and High School students will be assessed based on the two books the first weeks of class.

Have a wonderful summer!  
English Department  
Brito Miami Private School

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Catchpool, Michael. *The Cloud Spinner*

When the king orders a boy to make him a huge wardrobe out of the clouds in the sky, the boy warns him that it is more than he needs but the king does not listen.

Davies, Nicola. *Just Ducks*

On her way to school, a young girl spots mallard ducks in the river and enthusiastically describes their appearance, habits, and behavior. Interspersed throughout the pages are facts about ducks.

Reynolds, Aaron. *Creepy Carrots*

The carrots that grow in Crackenhopper Field are the fattest and crispiest around, and Jasper Rabbit cannot resist pulling some to eat each time he passes by, until he begins hearing and seeing creepy carrots wherever he goes.

Shannon, David. *Jangles: A Big Fish*

A father relates to his son the tale of his encounter, and friendship, with a gigantic trout whose enormous jaw is covered with so many lures and fish hooks that he jangles when he swims, but who has never been caught.

Frost, Helen. *Step Gently Out*

If you walked very quietly and looked ever so carefully at the natural world outside, you might see a cricket leap, a moth spread her wings, or a spider step across a silken web. In simple, evocative poems, Helen Frost, along with powerful photographs, this book offers a hint at the many tiny creatures around us.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami. *A Black Hole is Not a Hole*  
Introduces black holes, describing their physical features, how they were discovered, what causes them, and where they exist in space.



Byrd, Robert. *Electric Ben: the Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*

Robert Byrd documents Franklin's numerous accomplishments, from framing the Constitution to creating bifocals.

Jarrell, Randall. *The Animal Family*

A lonely hunter living in the wilderness beside the sea gains a family made up of a mermaid, a bear, a lynx, and a boy.

Jenkins, Emily. *Toys Go Out*

Here is a peek into the secret lives of toys as Stingray, Lumphy and Plastic participate in a series of adventures.

Fern, Tracey. *Barnum's Bones: How Barnum Brown discovered the most famous dinosaur in the world*

Barnum Brown's (1873-1963) parents named him after the circus icon P.T. Barnum, hoping that he would do something extraordinary, and he did.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Mora, Pat. *Dona Flor: A Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart* \*

Dona Flor, a giant of a lady, sets off to protect her neighbors from what they think is a dangerous animal, but soon discovers the tiny secret behind the huge noise.

Muth, Jon J. *Zen Shorts* \*

When Stillwater the bear moves into the neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways.

Scieszka, Jon. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*

This amusing fractured fairy tale will tickle the funny bone and inspire readers to invent their own tales.

Lin, Grace. *Starry River of the Sky* \*\*

An innkeeper's young helper discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky.

Step toe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* \*\*\*

This book retells the African version of Cinderella with magnificent illustrations of the Zimbabwe landscape.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Aldrin, Buzz. *Reaching for the Moon*

An illustrated account of astronaut Buzz Aldrin's life and the determination and experiences that led him to be part of the first mission to land men on the moon.

Bishop, Nic. *Nic Bishop Lizards*

This book introduces young nature enthusiasts to the beauty and diversity of lizards, in a volume that combines facts with full-page images and a double-gatefold spread.

Davidson, Margaret. *Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind*

Blind at the age of three, Louis Braille created a system of reading for the blind when he was fifteen.

Berends, Polly. *The Case of the Elevator Duck*

This book chronicles the adventures of eleven-year-old Gilbert a self-styled private eye, who takes on his toughest case when he finds a duck in the elevator of his apartment building.

Butler, Dori Hillsetad. *The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy*

Meet King, loyal dog detective, while searching for his mysteriously lost human family, Buddy the dog is adopted by another family and helps solve the mystery of their missing boy.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan*

Poignant story of Ivan the gorilla and his friends at a decrepit animal show and how he uses his talent to save them. Lyrical writing and gorgeous illustrations combine to make this Newbery winner a must read.



Avi. *Sophia's War*

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all they can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.

Hale, Dean and Shannon Hale. *Rapunzel's Revenge*

Fans of Calamity Jack will enjoy this twisted version of Rapunzel. Rapunzel teams up with Jack the Beanstalk in a quest to free her mother and the kingdom from the evil queen. Beautiful graphic illustrations and the witty text combine for a compelling story.

Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*

During World War II, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Turnage, Sheila. *Three Times Lucky*

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*

Orphaned Mary Lenox goes to live with her hermit uncle in gloomy, mysterious Misselthwaite Manor. There, she discovers all sorts of secrets, including a cousin she's never heard of and a garden everyone has forgotten.

Burnford, Sheila. *The Incredible Journey*

A young Labrador retriever, a bull terrier and a Siamese cat set out through the Canadian wilderness. Together, the three house pets face starvation, exposure, and wild forest animals as they attempt to make their way home to the family they love.

Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina* \*\*\*

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.





## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

Broskol, Vera. *Anya's Ghost*

Anya, embarrassed by her Russian immigrant family and self-conscious about her body, has given up on fitting in at school but falling down a well and making friends with the ghost there just may be worse.

Leeds, Constance. *The Unfortunate Son*

Luc, a youth born with one ear and raised by a drunken father in fifteenth-century France, finds a better home with fisherman Pons, his sister Mattie, and their ward Beatrice, the daughter of a disgraced knight, and even after being kidnapped and sold into slavery in Africa, he remains remarkably fortunate.

Lupica, Mike. *True Legend*

Fifteen-year-old Drew "True" Robinson loves being the best point-guard prospect in high school basketball, but learns the consequences of fame through a former player, as well as through the man who expects to be his manager when True reaches the NBA.

Paulson, Gary. *Guts*

In *Guts*, Gary tells about the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in Hatched; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own. There's even a handy chapter on "Eating Eyeballs and Guts or Starving: The Fine Art of Wilderness Nutrition." Recipes included.

Yolen, Jane. *Foiled*

Aliera Carstairs, having always felt like an outcast at school but special in her fencing class, falls for Avery Castle, until a fencing foil with a large ruby on the hilt that her mother found at a sale reveals to her that both Avery and the world around her are not what they seem.



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo*

Sent to prison on a false accusation in 1815, Edmond Dantes escapes many years later and finds a treasure which he uses to exact his revenge.

Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

Preston, Richard. *Hot Zone*

This is the dramatic, hair-raising, and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses.

Budhos, Marina. *Tell Us We're Home*

Three immigrant girls from different parts of the world meet and become close friends in a small New Jersey town where their mothers have found domestic work, but their relationships are tested when one girl's mother is accused of stealing a precious heirloom.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) by Mark Twain is one of the truly great American novels, beloved by children, adults, and literary critics alike. The book tells the story of "Huck" Finn (first introduced as Tom Sawyer's sidekick in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*), his friend Jim, and their journey down the Mississippi River on a raft. Both are on the run, Huck from his drunk and abusive father, and Jim as a runaway slave.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



Austen, Jane. *Emma*

Emma has recently lost her sister/mother-figure to marriage and appears doomed to a lifetime of seclusion with her kindly but odd and hermitic father. To avoid such a result, at least for a time, Emma sets to matchmaking. Emma is the most lightweight and openly comedic of all Jane Austen's novels, with a likable heroine and a multilayered plot full of half-hidden feelings.

Herbert, Frank. *Dune*

Set on the desert planet Arrakis, *Dune* is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who would become the mysterious man known as Maud'dib. He would avenge the traitorous plot against his noble family, and would bring to fruition humankind's most ancient and unattainable dream.

Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

Simpson, Joe. *Touching the Void*

Joe Simpson's gripping account of near-death in the Peruvian Andes and his struggle with issues of bravery, friendship, and sheer physical endurance.

Green, John. *Paper Towns*

When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night—dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows her. Margo's always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she's always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



### **Orwell, George. *Animal Farm***

*Animal Farm* is a devastating satire of the Soviet Union by the man Pritchett called "the conscience of his generation." A fable about farm animals against their human masters, it illustrates how new replaces old in the wake of revolutions and power corrupts even the noblest of causes.

### **Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen***

It is the now-classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share in the way that is best suited to each. And as the boys grow into young men, they discover in the other a lost spiritual brother, and a link to an unexplored world that neither had ever considered before. In effect, they exchange places, and find the peace that neither will ever retreat from again.

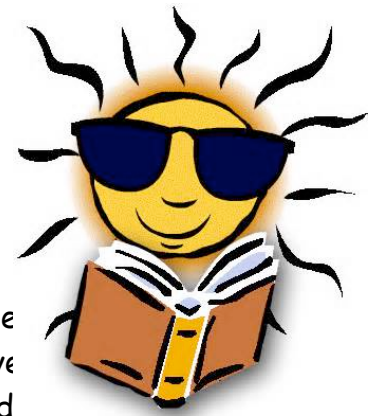
### **Christie, Agatha. *And Then There Were None* (AKA *Ten Little Indians*)**

First, there were ten—a curious assortment of strangers summoned as weekend guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to all of them, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none. And only the dead are above suspicion.

### **Johnson, Maureen. *13 Little Blue Envelopes***

Inside little blue envelope 1 are \$1,000 and instructions to buy a plane ticket. In envelope 2 are directions to a specific London flat. The note in envelope 3 tells Ginny: Find a starving artist. Because of envelope 4, Ginny and a playwright/thief/ bloke-about-town called Keith go to Scotland together, with somewhat disastrous-though utterly romantic-results. But will she ever see him again? Everything about Ginny will change this summer, and it's all because of the 13 little blue envelopes.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List



### **Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein***

A novel written by Mary Shelley. Shelley started writing when she and the novel was published when she was 21. The title of the novel is about a scientist, Victor Frankenstein, who learns how to create life and being in the likeness of man, but larger than average and more powerful

### **Dickens, Charles *Great Expectations***

Considered one of his most important works, Charles Dickens' *GREAT EXPECTATIONS* is a classic coming-of-age story. The central character, Pip, is an orphan who unwillingly befriends an escaped criminal as a child in early 19th century England. As Pip grows older, Dickens' uses Pip's life as a backdrop for commentary on issues of the time such as crime, social class, empire and ambition.

### **Steinbeck, John *Of Mice and Men***

While the powerlessness of the laboring class is a recurring theme in Steinbeck's work of the late 1930s, he narrowed his focus when composing *Of Mice and Men* (1937), creating an intimate portrait of two men facing a world marked by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness. But though the scope is narrow, the theme is universal; a friendship and a shared dream that makes an individual's existence meaningful.

### **Albom, Mitch. *Tuesday's with Morrie***

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher. Someone older who understood you when you were young and searching, who helped you see the world as a more profound place, and gave you advice to help you make your way through it. For Mitch Albom, that person was Morrie Schwartz, his college professor from nearly twenty years ago. *Tuesdays With Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift to the world.

### **Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby***

The mysterious Jay Gatsby embodies the American notion that it is possible to redefine oneself and persuade the world to accept that definition. Gatsby's youthful neighbor, Nick Carraway, fascinated with the display of enormous wealth in which Gatsby revels, finds himself swept up in the lavish lifestyle of Long Island society during the Jazz Age.

# Brito Miami Private School Elementary Summer Reading Form



Name:

Date:

Grade:

Answer the following questions based on the Summer Reading book.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Main Characters - Include names and description:

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Write a brief summary of the book:

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