

Summer Reading Requirements/Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE THREE 2026 – 2027

Although we recognize and hope that *many* books may be read over the summer, **students are required to read a minimum of four books** to fulfill the SJA Summer Reading Program, including the **Third Grade Required Read: *Lily to the Rescue* by W. Bruce Cameron.** (*Please Note: If students choose to read graphic novels as part of this requirement, only one of the four required reads may be from this genre.) Students need to list book titles read, including the author's name. Parents must sign this list. The list of books read must be submitted to your classroom teacher on the first day of classes in September. These books may be used as the basis for discussion and writing during the first weeks of school.

Please help strengthen your child's reading interest by exposing him/her to a variety of books, listening to him/her read orally, and posing questions about characters, setting, and plot. These activities all provide opportunities for sharing conversation about the stories, as well as deepening your child's reading enjoyment. We encourage families to make reading a regular part of their summer schedule; in this current era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parents and children to bond and relax together, and boosts students' attention span, comprehension, and language/vocabulary development – key tools for their academic achievement and success.

Reading resources abound. The American Library Association provides a complete online list of Award Books at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia. Baltimore County Public Library (www.bcpl.info), Harford County Public Library (www.hcplonline.org), and the York County Public Library (www.yorklibraries.org) offer additional resources and programs for students. Their websites include suggested reading lists by age, information on youth reading programs and events, including this year's Maryland State Library Summer Reading Program, "*Unearth a Story*," and a large selection of e-books and audio books available for direct download. In addition, we encourage you to link to the Baltimore County or Harford County Public Libraries' Research Databases to access NoveList K-8 Plus. This database is an excellent source for book recommendations based on age, fiction/non-fiction, interest, and genre.

We suggest that every SJA student have a current public library card for the upcoming school year. Library cards may be obtained in person or online from your local library branch. A public library card gives students access to the available resources detailed above, as well as academic databases.

REQUIRED READ

All students entering Third Grade are required to read: *Lily to the Rescue* by W. Bruce Cameron.

THIRD GRADE UNITS OF STUDY

Reading fiction and non-fiction titles related to the Third Grade curriculum provides excellent enrichment and support for subjects studied during the year.

Native Americans

Famous Americans

States

Geography

Inventive Thinking Project

Think Like a Scientist/Scientific Method

Rocks and Minerals

Fossils

Prehistoric Animals

Sound