

OPTIMA ACADEMY ONLINE

Summer Reading List

Grades K–12 | Aligned with I-Ready Reading Level Guidance

This summer reading list is designed to offer students access to high-quality literature that supports classical education, moral development, and independent reading. Titles fall within or near I-Ready Lexile bands and are intended to enrich students' understanding of literature and culture. While only one book is required, students are encouraged to read more.

Grades K–2 (Ages 5–7)

I-Ready Lexile Range: BR – 420L

- The Tale of Peter Rabbit – Beatrix Potter (410L)
- Nursery Rhymes and Aesop's Fables (Lexile varies)
- Poems by Robert Louis Stevenson (Lexile varies)
- Where the Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak (NP)
- Frog and Toad Are Friends – Arnold Lobel (400L)
- Madeline – Ludwig Bemelmans (480L)
- Harold and the Purple Crayon – Crockett Johnson (NP)
- Blueberries for Sal – Robert McCloskey (490L)

Grades 3–5 (Ages 8–10)

I-Ready Lexile Range: 420L – 820L

- The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett (970L)
- Trumpet of the Swan – E. B. White (750L)
- Sarah, Plain and Tall – Patricia MacLachlan (560L)
- Pippi Longstocking – Astrid Lindgren (870L)
- The Wind in the Willows – Kenneth Grahame (820L)
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E. L. Konigsburg (700L)
- Just So Stories – Rudyard Kipling (680L–850L)
- The Moffats – Eleanor Estes (650L)

Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–13)

I-Ready Lexile Range: 830L – 1010L

- Little Men – Louisa May Alcott (930L)

- Heidi – Johanna Spyri (1000L)
- The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien (1000L)
- Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls (700L)
- The Giver – Lois Lowry (760L)
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Mildred D. Taylor (920L)
- The Eagle of the Ninth – Rosemary Sutcliff (990L)
- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase – Joan Aiken (1020L)
- The Shakespeare Stealer – Gary Blackwood (840L)

Grades 9–12 (Ages 14–18)

I-Ready Lexile Range: 1020L – 1380L

- Catch-22 – Joseph Heller (1140L)
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Betty Smith (810L)
- I Am Malala – Malala Yousafzai
 - Young Readers Edition (1000L)
 - Standard Edition (1200L)
- The Book Thief – Markus Zusak (730L)
- Cry, the Beloved Country – Alan Paton (860L)
- Till We Have Faces – C.S. Lewis (Lexile unavailable; appropriate for advanced high school)
- A Separate Peace – John Knowles (1110L)
- Anthem – Ayn Rand (930L)

Note: Lexile levels are provided to assist with reading selections but should not limit student choice. Reading above or below the range is acceptable based on interest and family support. These texts are not included in the core curriculum and have been selected to encourage exploration, imagination, and thoughtful engagement with literature.

