

Summer Reading 3rd Graders 2025

St John the Beloved Academy



Greetings Parents and Students

Dear Parents,

The books, stories and poems have been carefully selected to foster an enjoyable and thoughtful reading experience. Enjoy this special time with your child. These assignments are meant to be enriching and meaningful. Be sure to balance the assignments with lots of fun, enjoyable time outside with family and friends.

Best to you and your family,

Mr. Jeffrey P. Presberg
Headmaster

Core Elements of Summer Reading for Rising 3rd Graders

Journal & Books

- You will need a good writing journal (of strong construction)...something that will last.

- From the reading list below, choose 2 to read. Please read books by two different authors. You may also choose books from the recommended reading list.
- Draw a picture of something interesting from each of the two books you choose from the reading list below. First sketch the picture in pencil and then color.
- Write 1 paragraph (3-5 sentences) in your journal describing each picture (pictures may be drawn and placed inside your journal if you would like).



Mary or Francis, The Poor Man of Assisi - Tomie DePaola

Under the Lilacs - Louisa May Alcott

The King's Chessboard - David Birch

Caddie Woodlawn - Carol Ryrie Brink

The Pied Piper of Hamelin - Robert Browning

The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Little Lame Prince - Dinah Craik

The Courage of Sarah Noble - Alice Dalgliesh

Black Gold - Marguerite Henry or another Marguerite Henry book

Pyramid - David Macaulay

Sarah, Plain and Tall - Patricia MacLachlan

The Borrowers - Mary Norton

The Trumpet of the Swan - E.B. White

Little House in the Big Woods - Laura Ingalls Wilder or another Laura Ingalls Wilder book

Ramona Quimby, Age 8 - Beverly Cleary

Mr. Popper's Penguins - Richard Atwater

Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective - Donald Sobol

Charlotte's Web or Stuart Little - E.B. White



The Hare and the Tortoise illustration by Arthur Rackham

Poems

- **Read all four recommended poems, copy one in your journal and memorize, reciting it at home (at the dinner table or some other spontaneous moment). This will also be recited at school.**

"The Wind" by Christina Rossetti

"Us Two" by A.A. Milne

"The Mountain and the Squirrel" by Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The Swing" by Robert Louis Stevenson

Aesop's Fables

- **Choose three Aesop's Fables to read, no writing required.**

The Fox and the Grapes

The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs

The Mice in Council

The Lion and the Mouse

The North Wind and the Sun

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Boy and the Wolf

The Hare and the Tortoise

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The Grasshopper and the Ants

Spiritual

- **Read the Annunciation in the Gospel (or have it read to you): Luke 1: 5-38**
- **Imagine you are at the scene of the Annunciation--as a bird, or insect, or a friend quietly observing.**
- **Describe some moment from the Annunciation scene and tell it like a story in 1-2 paragraph(s), beginning with the mysterious and surprising moment when the Angel appears and speaks.**
- **Some things to think about (but not write about): What would the angel look like? Was he frightening but also comforting? Why was Mary afraid, but also calm? What risks did she have to take if she said yes? How was Mary's reaction to the strange and wonderful message different from the reaction by Zachary to the message he received?**

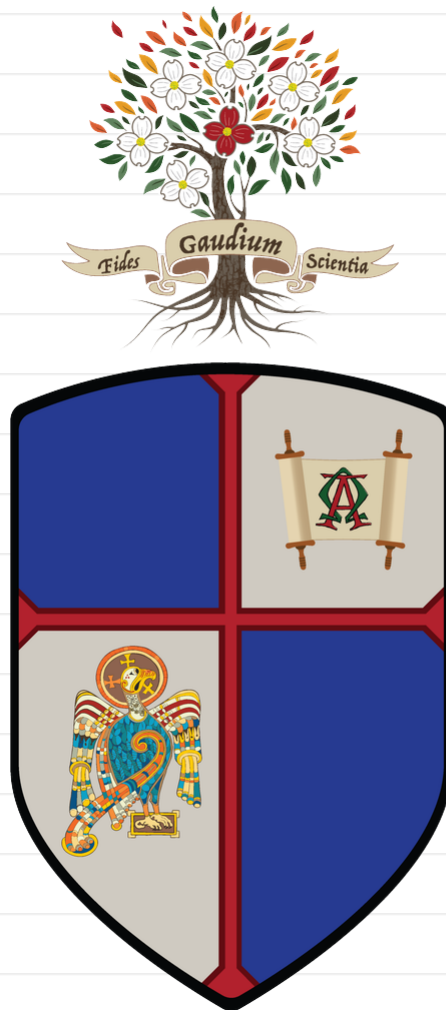
Please examine Henry Ossawa Tanner's *Annunciation* painting to help you enter into that moment. (see below)

- **Suggestion, pray this joyful mystery of the rosary at least once a week. Before you pray it, pause for a few moments, be still and imagine the scene of the Annunciation as if you were there, perhaps also imagining how Mary felt at that moment.**



"You can make anything by writing." C.S. Lewis

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St John the Beloved Academy

Saint John the Beloved Academy was founded in 1954 to offer quality Catholic education to parish children. Saint John the Beloved Academy continues to provide children in preschool through eighth grade with a Catholic liberal arts education rooted in rich tradition of academic excellence and spiritual formation, captured by the school's motto, "*Fides, Scientia, et Gaudium.*" By Faith, children are led beyond themselves to entrust their formation to God. By forming the entire child, we impart the Knowledge for both intellectual and spiritual growth. The Mission of Saint John the Beloved Academy is manifested in genuine Christian Joy—rooted in the Sacraments, self-sacrifice, charity, and service to others.

Top painting: *Listening to the Birds* by Winslow Homer



Christine White

