

Episcopal School of Dallas  
2016-2017

## Flying Angels

(These suggestions are a good place to begin your summer reading, whether you decide to participate in the program or not)

An **Optional** Incentive Reading Program for students entering 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade

The goal of the “Flying Angels” program is to recognize 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students **who choose to spend their free time reading books, and who take the time to respond in writing to the books they have read.** Parents may encourage their children to participate, but we hope it is the child’s decision to fulfill the requirements. Students may begin working on this project during the summer, but have a full 11 months to finish (deadline: May 1, 2017). Requirements are:

- 1.) **Read 10 fiction or biography chapter books.** In order to qualify as a “Flying Angel”, books **MUST** be chapter books (about 100 pages) owned by the ESD Lower School Library (call numbers beginning with **FI** or **B**.) During the summer, when the ESD library is not open, we prefer that you choose books from the following list. **PLEASE NOTE: books that are required for classroom assignments do NOT count as Flying Angels.** Please choose books that are “just right” for you. *We trust that you are reading books that you did not read during previous years.*
- 2.) We encourage you to try a variety of literature. Therefore, you may read **no more than two books by one author or in one series.**
- 3.) Using the form attached to this packet, write a short report (at least one paragraph) on the book. Be sure to include a brief summary (main characters and events) as well as a few sentences stating your opinion of the book (your favorite part, whether you recommend this book to others, or any criticism.) Be specific on identifying the genre: Mystery, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction, etc. Reports may be handwritten or typed, but the reports must be in your own words! We prefer you use the official form, but as long as all the information asked for on the form is included, you may use your own format.
- 4.) Turn in each report to your classroom teacher. Reports finished during the summer may be held and turned in when school begins in the fall. Be sure to include your first and last name and your teacher’s name in the spaces provided. It is a good idea to keep a copy of your reports.  
**Deadline: May 1, 2017**
- 5.) Successful completion leads to recognition during the May 2017 Honors Assembly

Questions? Contact Mrs. Van Der Kar ([vanderkarl@esdallas.org](mailto:vanderkarl@esdallas.org))

This school year we posted a place for students to record their book recommendations. We are sharing this list of books recommended by ESD students. Hopefully, you will find some great choices to read over your summer vacation, or later in the school year. Student comments are in quotation marks following the short description of the book (summaries are from the [Follett Destiny library catalog.](#))

## Adventure

**Book Scavenger** by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman (2015) Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends.

“Fun adventures.”

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen (1987) (first in a series about Brian) After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

“A very good adventure.”

**Mission Unstoppable** by Dan Gutman (2011) (Genius Files #1) On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, soon to be thirteen, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization known as The Genius Files.

“Full of action and adventure.”

**Spy School** by Stuart Gibbs (2015) Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

“Action-packed” “Awesome action.”

**Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz (2000) (Alex Rider Adventure #1) After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

“Awesome adventure!”

## Animals

**Charlotte's Web** by E. B. White (1952) Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

“Good adventure.”

***Goldie*** by Ellen Miles (2005) (Puppy Place series #1)

Charles and Lizzie Peterson love puppies. They want a puppy of their own more than just about anything. Their Mom still doesn't think their family is ready for a puppy. Then, Goldie arrives. Will Charles and Lizzie be able to help her?

**"Amazing book, I enjoyed the dog and that the boy saved the dog."**

***The Grand Escape*** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (1993) (Club of Mysteries #1)

After years of being strictly house cats, Marco and Polo escape into the wonderful, but dangerous outside world and are sent on three challenging adventures by a group of cats known as the Club of Mysteries.

**"Cats go on a great adventure."**

***Into the Wild*** by Erin Hunter (2004) (Warriors series #1)

Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by the ThunderClan and must struggle to fit in when the group of feral cats is threatened by the enemy ShadowClan.

**"Thrilling and interesting."**

***The World According to Humphrey*** by Betty Birney (2004) (Humphrey Adventures #1)

Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

**"Funny adventure."**

**Fantasy/Science Fiction**

***Athena the Brain*** by Joan Holub (2012) (Goddess Girls #1)

Athena learns that she is a goddess when she is summoned to Mount Olympus by her father, Zeus, and she must quickly adjust to her new status, make friends with the other godboys and goddess girls, and catch up with all the studies she missed while attending mortal school.

**"Cool and interesting."**

***The BFG*** by Roald Dahl (1982)

Kidnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

**"No matter what size you are, you don't have to be mean."**

***Crenshaw*** by Katherine Applegate (2015)

A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

**"It is meaningful and really sweet."**

***The Doll People*** by Ann M. Martin (2000) (Doll People #1)

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

**"Good adventure."**

***The Door by the Staircase* by Katherine Marsh (2016)**

Happy to be adopted at last, twelve-year-old orphan Mary Hayes soon learns a terrifying secret about her new mother, the mysterious Madame Z.

**"It is magical, suspenseful, fast-moving, and has lots of problem-solving and it is my favorite book!"**

***The Map to Everywhere* by Carrie Ryan & John Parke Davis (2014) (Pirate Stream #1)**

Fin, a master thief from the pirate world of Khaznot Quay, and Marrill, of Arizona, cross paths in the magical world of the Pirate Stream while on a quest for a mysterious map.

**"Thrilling, with lots of adventure."**

***The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer (2012) (Land of Stories #1)**

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

**"Adventurous, mysterious and interesting."**

**Historical Fiction/History**

***Elska* by Catherine Hapka (2009) (Horse Diaries #1)**

Around the year 1000, the Icelandic horse named Elska is born and learns about life and her role in the herd, as well as love and friendship, when she rescues the girl to whom she originally belonged. Includes facts about Icelandic horses and Iceland.

**"Charming and lovely."**

***Little House in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1953) (Little House #1)**

A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions when they get together with relatives or neighbors.

**"A lot of detail." "Writer makes the words come to life."**

***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (1989)**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

**"Interesting." "Good, but sad."**

***The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912* by Lauren Tarshis (2010) (I Survived series #1)**

Ten-year-old George Calder's life changes forever as he, his little sister, Phoebe, and their Aunt Daisy set out across the ocean on the "Titanic" in 1912.

**"Lots of action." "Cool."**

***Who Was Anne Frank?* By Ann Abramson (2007) (Who was--? series)**

Tells the life story of Anne Frank, the Dutch Jewish girl whose diary chronicling her years in hiding from the Nazis became beloved the world over after her death, and includes a chronology and bibliography.

**"Gives history."**

## **Humor**

### ***The 13-Story Treehouse* by Andy Griffiths (2013) (Treehouse series #1)**

Andy and Terry are trying hard to write their next book but they are constantly distracted by the many animals and special rooms in their thirteen story treehouse.

**"Funny book about 2 boys."**

### ***Ellie McDoodle: Have Pen Will Travel* by Ruth Barshaw (Ellie McDoodle #1)**

Eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle illustrates her sketchbook with chronicles of her adventures and mishaps while camping with her cousins, aunt, and uncle.

**"If you like Diary of a Wimpy Kid." "Funny."**

### ***Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard and Florence Atwater (1938)**

The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

**"Interesting and extremely funny & sad - mixed emotions."**

### ***Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar (1978) (Wayside School #1)**

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

**"You'll LOVE it!"**

### ***The Twits* by Roald Dahl (reprint 2007)**

The misadventures of two terrible old people who enjoy playing nasty tricks and are finally outwitted by a family of monkeys.

**"SO funny!"**

## **Mystery/Ghost Stories**

### ***The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket (1999) (Series of Unfortunate Events #1)**

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

**"Funny mystery and adventure."**

### ***The Dollhouse Murders* by Betty Ren Wright (1983)**

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night, and dolls that have moved from where she last left them, lead Amy and her mentally handicapped sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

**"Very scary, but exciting."**

### ***Dying to Meet You* by Kate Klise (2009) (43 Old Cemetery Road #1)**

In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I. B. Grumply, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer--including a ghost!

**"Totally fabulous and really funny!"**

***The Maze of Bones*** by Rick Riordan (2008) (The 39 Clues #1)

Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents.

**"A lot of action and intrigue."**

***The Mystery at Lilac Inn*** by Carolyn Keene (1930) (Nancy Drew Mystery series)

Teenage detective Nancy Drew finds herself in danger when she sets out to track a jewel thief.

**"These are the best mysteries ever!"**

**Realistic Fiction**

***A Crooked Kind of Perfect*** by Linda Urban (2007)

Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.

**"Awesome!"**

***Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (2015)

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.

**"Interesting."**

***Hoot*** by Carl Hiaasen (2002)

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

**"Interesting adventure."**

***The Lemonade War*** by Jacqueline Davies (2007) (Lemonade War series #1)

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. Includes mathematical calculations and tips for running a successful lemonade stand.

**"It's about friendship-I am a good friend."**

***Two-minute Drill*** by Mike Lupica (2007)

Brainy Scott, a great kicker who otherwise struggles with football, and star quarterback Chris, who has dyslexia, team up to help each other succeed in both football and school.

**"Shows how to solve problems."**

***Saving the Team*** by Alex Morgan (2013) (The Kicks #1)

After moving to California, seventh-grader Devin is afraid she will not make the soccer team but finds, instead, that the team is so bad that she is compelled to take the lead and turn it into something the players and coach can all be proud of.

**"Friendship and doing good."**

***Umbrella Summer*** by Lisa Graff (2009)

After her brother Jared dies, ten-year-old Annie worries about the hidden dangers of everything, from bug bites to bicycle riding, until she is befriended by a new neighbor who is grieving her own loss. **"It was about friendship and enjoying people you love." "Sad, but really good."**

***Wonder*** by R. J. Palacio (2012)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. **"So touching." "Awesome." "It is very inspiring."**