

Villa Maria Academy

2026-2027

Third Grade Summer Reading List



Dear Parents and Rising Third Graders,

Reading every night during the summer is very important. When you read, you go on adventures, learn new things, and use your imagination. It's like taking a trip to a world where anything is possible. Plus, nightly reading helps you practice your reading skills and learn new words, so you will be an even better reader when you come to third grade.

Assigned Reading - Each student entering third grade is required to read the Newberry Award-Winning *Sarah Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan.

Background - *Sarah, Plain and Tall* happens long ago when families were moving to new places in the big grassy fields called the prairie. People wanted to start new farms and find new homes. Life was tough because the weather could be bad, and families had to take care of themselves. They had to grow their own food and build their own homes. Sometimes, things didn't go well, like when the crops didn't grow, or there wasn't enough rain. This story is about a family trying to make a home in this wild place, and how they stick together and find happiness.

After reading the book, each student will also complete **one** of the two projects options below. Projects should be brought to school by Tuesday, September 8.

Sarah Plain and Tall Project Choices:

Option 1 - Treasure Box

You will create a treasure box for your favorite character. You may choose Sarah, Jacob, Anna, or Caleb. Remember, you may only choose one!

Materials: 5 items for your treasure box, shoebox with lid, 5 3X5 index cards, pencil, and materials to decorate box

1. The treasure box will contain 5 objects that relate to your character and connect with the story. What do you think your character might have kept in a treasure box? The objects may be real or you may create them. They can be items from home. **The items you choose must fit the time period.**
2. Once you pick your 5 items, you will write 3-5 sentences about each object in the box. These may be questions to consider: What is the object? (Describe it.) What does it mean to your character? Why did the character choose to put it in the box? How is it important to the story? **Remember: You are pretending you are the character and thinking like they would!**

- Find an empty shoe box with a lid and decorate your treasure box. Put your character's name somewhere on the box. All items must be able to fit inside the box.

Option 2 - Story Quilt

You will create a story quilt for Sarah, Plain and Tall.

Materials: Poster board, pencils, markers or crayons

- Your quilt will have nine squares (see the sample below). In the center of the quilt, write the book's title, the author, and your name.
- In the eight outer sections around the center square, you will draw pictures/write about different aspects of the story. Helpful hint: You may want to draw your pictures lightly using pencil first and then go back and color it.
- Some of the squares should be labeled with a heading (see sample below, but the placement of the 8 squares can be done however you want!)
 - Square one: the setting; Show the setting based on descriptions from the book and what these descriptions lead you to imagine
 - Square two: Main characters; Choose a few of the main characters to draw. Again your pictures should be based on the descriptions you read of each character. There should be no more than 5 characters drawn in this square.
 - Square three: Your favorite part of the story
 - Square four: Your least favorite part of the story
 - Square five: Three words to describe the book
 - Square six and seven: Two important symbols from the story. Be sure you are able to explain why you think these symbols are important.
 - Square eight: Write to describe a lesson you learned from this story.
- On another sheet of paper or on 3X5 cards write 2-3 sentences describing the significance of each swatch of the quilt.

<u>Setting</u>	<u>Main Characters</u>	<u>Favorite Part</u>
	Title Author Your Name	<u>Least Favorite Part</u>

Additional Suggested Summer Reading:

Note: The following books have been arranged by level of difficulty. The **bolded selections** are books on the third grade reading level, ranging from the beginning of third grade and up until the fourth grade level. Books listed above the bolded selections are second grade level books, and those listed beneath the bolded selections are enrichment level books. ***Please choose books that are appropriate for your daughter's reading level.***

Sachar, Louis	<i>Why Pick on Me</i>
DiCamillo, Kate	<i>Mercy Watson</i>
Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman	<i>Nate the Great Series</i>
Adler, David A.	<i>Cam Jansen Series</i>
Barrows, Annie	<i>Ivy and Bean Series</i>
Osborn, Mary Pope	<i>Magic Treehouse Series (fiction and nonfiction titles)</i>
Various Authors	<i>National Geographic Kids – Level 2 or 3 (nonfiction)</i>
Various Authors	<i>All Aboard Science Readers – Level 2 or 3 (nonfiction)</i>
Warner, Gertrude Chandler	<i>Various Titles of the <i>Boxcar Children</i> Series</i>
Ada, Alma Flor	<i>My Name is Maria Isabel</i>
Stilton, Geronimo	<i>Geronimo Stilton</i>
Look, Lenore	<i>Various titles from the <i>Ruby Lu</i> Series</i>
McDonald, Megan	<i>Various titles of the <i>Judy Moody</i> books</i>
Roy, Ron	<i>A to Z Mysteries series</i>
Pennypacker, Sara	<i>Clementine's Letter, and various Clementine titles</i>
Polacco, Patricia	<i>Rechenka's Eggs</i>
Bulla, Clyde Robt	<i>A Lion to Guard Us</i>
Leedy, Loreen	<i>Measuring Penny</i>
Black, Sonia W	<i>Animal Mysteries: A Chapter Book (nonfiction)</i>
Tarshis, Lauren	Various titles of the <i>I Survived</i> Series (historical fiction)
Lewis, CS	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>
Wojciechowski, Susan	<i>Beany</i>
Mills, Claudia	<i>7 x 9 = Trouble</i>
Wilder, Laura Ingalls	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i> (historical fiction)
Estes, Eleanor	<i>The Hundred Dresses</i>
Cleary, Beverly	<i>Muggy Maggie and various titles</i>