



**ICCS**  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

**Immaculate Conception Cathedral School**

1536 Ryan Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
337-433-3497

## **2026-2027 Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading**

### **Expectations**

- Students should come to school in August **having completed all reading**
- Books should be read **independently** (not solely through summaries or audiobooks without following along in the text)
- Students should be prepared to **demonstrate understanding** of each book

### **Assessment**

- Annotations are NOT required.
- The two required books will be the primary focus of beginning-of-year assessments, students should be prepared to write about these novels.
- The choice reading book will have a shorter, lower-weight comprehension check.

### **Tips for Success**

- Create a simple reading schedule (for example: 20–30 minutes a few times per week)
- Avoid waiting until the end of summer
- Choose a quiet place to read and stay consistent

**We look forward to a strong start in August!**


*Katrina Johnson, MS English*

*Kyndel Heffer, MS Literature*

*Brittany Ebersole, Assistant Principal*

*See next page for links to purchase novel selections*

Summer 2026 Novel Selections - Incoming 8th Graders

Title	Required?	Synopsis	Faith Connection
<p><a href="#"><u><i>A Long Walk to Water</i></u></a></p> 	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>Based on a true story, the novel follows Salva Dut, a young boy forced to flee Sudan during the civil war, and Nya, a young girl who spends her days walking long distances to collect water for her family. Through hardship, loss, and perseverance, Salva eventually grows into a leader who returns to help bring clean water to Sudanese villages. The story highlights resilience, survival, compassion, and the impact one person can make in the lives of others.</p>	<p>Encourages reflection on human dignity, perseverance through suffering, compassion for others, and the Christian call to serve the poor and vulnerable. The novel connects strongly to Catholic Social Teaching through themes of charity, reconciliation, hope, and stewardship, while emphasizing how acts of service can bring life and healing to communities.</p>
<p><b>Student Choice</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p>Students will choose one of the following for their second required reading:</p> <p><a href="#"><u><i>The Hobbit</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>The Giver</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Refugee</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>I am Malala (Teen Edition)</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>The Book Thief</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Unbroken (Young Adult Adaptation)</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Wednesday Wars</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Night</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Roll of Thunder</i></u></a>, <a href="#"><u><i>Hear My Cry</i></u></a></p>	
<p><a href="#"><u><i>Lord of the Flies</i></u></a></p> 	<p><b>Additionally required for English I students only</b></p>	<p>After being stranded on an uninhabited island, a group of boys attempts to govern themselves, but fear and the misuse of power lead to disorder and conflict. The novel explores human nature, morality, and the consequences of abandoning virtue.</p>	<p>Encourages reflection on human dignity, the effects of sin, the need for moral order, and the importance of conscience and virtuous leadership.</p>