

# The 2009 Summer Reading Olympics

June 12 - August 25, 2009

Book lists are on our website at [www.stjoevanschool.org](http://www.stjoevanschool.org)

***On Your Mark ... Get Set ... READ!*** Line up at the starting line for the St. Joseph Summer Reading Olympics. A summer full of adventure awaits you, with ***prizes*** at the finish line!

## The Starting Line:

1. Choose at least one book from the list of great literature ON OUR WEBSITE! ([www.stjoevanschool.org](http://www.stjoevanschool.org))

Typically, you will use the list for the grade you just completed, but you may also choose from one grade below or up to two grades above your completed grade.

2. For the rest of your books, you and your parents may choose appropriate reading material!

## The Finish Line:

1. Bring your reading list to your teacher during the first week of school.
2. All Bronze, Silver and Gold medal winners will receive a prize!

## The Fine Print:

Parents can read to their children. Books on tape are fine. Movies don't count! ☺

Will you be a **BRONZE**, **SILVER**, or **GOLD** medal reader?

If you are in:	<u>Bronze</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Gold</u>
K thru 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	15 books	20 books	25 books
4 <sup>th</sup> thru 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	5 books	8 books	10 books



**Read ... and lose yourself in a story or adventure!**

Visit your local library [www.fvrl.org](http://www.fvrl.org) or Barnes & Noble for additional programs!

## Questions and Answers for Parents

### Q. Do we have to?

**A.** Participation in the Reading Olympics is totally voluntary. The fun comes with the great adventures kids experience while reading. There are some great books out there and wonderful prizes to be had.

### Q. Can I read to my child?

**A.** You bet! Reading aloud is a wonderful way to connect with your children intellectually and emotionally, not to mention the academic benefits. All the books on our lists make great family read-alouds. Make it interactive! With younger children, ask questions about the pictures and the plot as you read. With older children play the question game - at the end of each reading session, every family member gets to ask one question and must answer one question. If you're taking a road trip, check out books on tape at the library for a story you can all enjoy. Turn off the TV and enjoy a good book together this summer!

### Q. What are Great Books?

**A.** Reading great books, also known as the classics, has been a basis for education for more than two thousand years. As Ezra Keats said, "the classics are news that stays news." The books on our lists were chosen for their content and writing quality, to inspire and inform as well as to entertain. Most are award winners. In addition to seeking input from our teaching staff, we pulled from several recognized sources listed below. These are excellent resources for building your own family library:

- *Honey for a Child's Heart* by Gladys Hunt
- American Library Assoc. Newberry & Caldecott winner list [www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds](http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds)
- *Designing your Own Classical Curriculum* by Laura Berquist
- *A Landscape with Dragons* by Michael O'Brien
- Ignatius Press, [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com)
- National Endowment for Humanities reading list, [www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites](http://www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites)
- Sonlight Books, [www.sonlight.com/readers](http://www.sonlight.com/readers)
- Ed Hirsch's Core Knowledge [www.coreknowledge.org/CK/schools/schools\\_official.htm](http://www.coreknowledge.org/CK/schools/schools_official.htm)
- Camas Public Library Recommended Reading List

We hope the lists will guide parents who wonder, "what's good?" We also hope they will guide children to some very good books and authors they might not be aware of. Some popular titles such as the Harry Potter and American Girl series are not included as many children know about and have read them. We highly recommend the Vancouver and Camas public libraries. On the K-3 lists, the titles are suggestions and any books by the listed authors are great suggestions. Alternatively, the public libraries conduct reading programs based on minutes read regardless of content. We encourage your participation in those.

## More Questions? Comments?

The reading lists are a work in progress. We welcome your suggestions. Please email suggestions, questions, or comments to Kathy Lundy, [kathyl@stjoevan.org](mailto:kathyl@stjoevan.org). Please note "Summer Reading" in the subject line.

"Good literature... can do more to inspire honor and tenacity of purpose than all the chiding and exhortations in the world." *Gladys Hunt author of 'Honey for a Child's Heart'*

**Childhood is short - give them good books!**