

An illustration of Little Red Riding Hood in a forest. She is wearing a red hooded cape and a patterned dress, holding a basket. A wolf is in the foreground, and birds are flying in the sky. The background consists of tall, thin trees.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

*Family*  
**READ ALOUD  
LIST**

K-5TH GRADE

"[LIVING BOOKS ARE THOSE THAT] CAPTURE THE ISSUES OF LIFE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CHALLENGE THE INTELLECT, THEY INSPIRE THE EMOTIONS, AND THEY AROUSE SOMETHING NOBLE IN THE HEART OF THE READER."

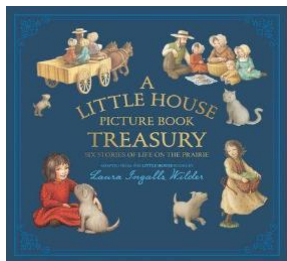
C.S. LEWIS

2024-2025

Christian Life Preparatory School  
The Family Read Aloud  
(K-5)  
2024-2025 Reading Plan

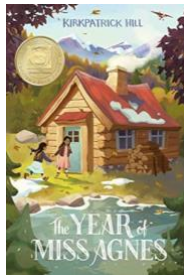
## September

[Little House Picture Book Treasury by Laura Ingalls Wilder](#)-picture book



This illustrated storybook collection introduces the youngest readers to the world of Laura Ingalls Wilder and her life growing up on the frontier. Laura lives in a snug little log cabin with her ma, her pa, her sisters, Mary and Carrie, and their dog, Jack. Almanzo Wilder lives on a farm with his family and lots of animals. These pioneer children have all sorts of adventures, including trips to town, county fairs, cozy winter days, and holidays with family. The six stories included in this treasury were originally published as stand-alone picture books: *A Little Prairie House*, *Going to Town*, *County Fair*, *Sugar Snow*, *Winter Days in the Big Woods*, and *Christmas in the Big Woods*.

[The Year of Mrs. Agnes by Kirkpatrick Hill](#)- chapter book



A year they will never forget. Ten-year-old Frederika (Fred for short) doesn't have much faith that the new teacher in town will last very long. After all, they never do. Most teachers who come to their one-room schoolhouse in remote Alaska leave at the first smell of fish, claiming that life there is just too hard. But Miss Agnes is different -- she doesn't get frustrated with her students, and she throws away old textbooks and reads Robin Hood instead! For the first time, Fred and her classmates begin to enjoy their lessons and learn to read and write -- but will Miss Agnes be like all the rest and leave as quickly as she came?

## October

[The Pumpkin Runner by Marsha Diane Arnold](#)-picture book

"Nearly all the sheep ranchers in Blue Gum Valley rode horses or drove jeeps to check on their sheep. But Joshua Summerhayes liked to run...with Yellow Dog trailing behind him." So it's no surprise when Joshua decides to enter a race from Melbourne to Sydney. People laugh when old Joshua shows up in his overalls and gumboots, calmly nibbling a slice of pumpkin for energy. But then he pulls into the lead, and folks are forced to sit up and take notice. Inspired by a true event, children are introduced to a humble and generous hero who knows that winning isn't always the reason to run a race.



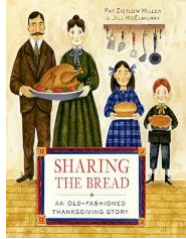
[My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett](#)- chapter book



When Elmer Elevator strikes up a friendship with an alley cat, he learns of a baby dragon that is being forced to serve as a ferry for the selfish animals of Wild Island. Elmer determines at once to free the enslaved dragon, and with a bit of advice from the savvy cat, he arms himself with chewing gum, lollipops, rubber bands, and some other unlikely items. With these tools and his own sharp wits, Elmer is prepared to face hungry tigers, cranky crocodiles, and other challenges.

**November**

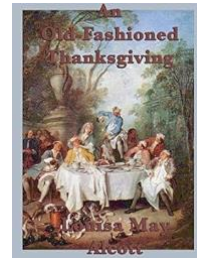
[\*Sharing the Bread: An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving Story by Pat Zietlow Miller\*](#)-picture book



Celebrate food and family with this heartwarming Thanksgiving picture book. In this spirited ode to the holiday, set at the turn of the twentieth century, a large family works together to make their special meal. Mama prepares the turkey, Daddy tends the fire, Sister kneads, and Brother bastes. Everyone—from Grandma and Grandpa to the littlest baby—has a special job to do. Told in spare, rhythmic verse and lively illustrations, *Sharing the Bread* is a perfect read-aloud to celebrate the Thanksgiving tradition.

[\*Old Fashioned Thanksgiving by Louisa May Alcott\*](#)-chapter book

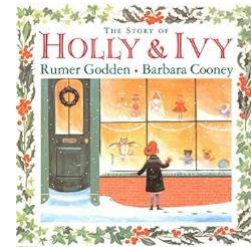
Mother and Father are called away suddenly, because Grandma is “failin’ fast”. This leaves the oldest Bassett girls, Tillie and Prue, to oversee the cooking of the Thanksgiving feast. Soon all eight children pitch in, though the subtleties of plum pudding and stuffed turkey are completely unknown to them. The result is a whole bunch of old-fashioned fun in the comfortably familiar Louisa May Alcott tradition.



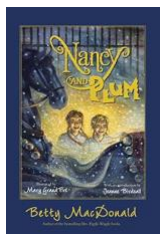
**December**

[\*The Story of Holly & Ivy by Rumer Godden\*](#)-picture book

Ivy, Holly, and Mr. and Mrs. Jones all have one Christmas wish. Ivy, an orphan, wishes for a real home and sets out in search of the grandmother she's sure she can find. Holly, a doll, wishes for a child to bring her to life. And the Joneses wish more than anything for a son or daughter to share their holiday. Can all three wishes come true? This festive tale is perfectly complemented by beloved Barbara Cooney's luminous illustrations, filled with the warm glow of the Christmas spirit.



[\*Nancy & Plum by Betty MacDonald\*](#)-chapter book



*It was Christmas Eve. Big snowflakes fluttered slowly through the air like white feathers and made all of Heavenly Valley smooth and white and quiet and beautiful.*

So begins the story of two orphaned sisters at Mrs. Monday’s Boarding School. But nothing is heavenly for Nancy and Pamela (aka Plum): their parents died in a tragic accident years ago, they’re constantly punished by the cruel Mrs. Monday, and they’re all alone for the holidays. Luckily, Nancy and Plum have each other, and they’re determined to change their lot for the better. If their plan works, the spirited sisters will never spend Christmas at the cold, dark boarding school again.

**January**

[\*Katy and the Big Snow by Virginia Lee Burton\*](#)-picture book



Katy, a brave and untiring tractor, who pushes a bulldozer in the summer and a snowplow in the winter, makes it possible for the townspeople to do their jobs. In this enduring winter favorite from the Caldecott Medal–winner Virginia Lee Burton, Katy the snowplow finally gets her chance to shine when a blizzard blankets the city and everyone is relying on Katy to help dig out.

[\*A Place to Hang the Moon\* by Kate Albus](#)-chapter book

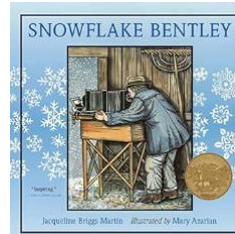


It is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died. But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer?

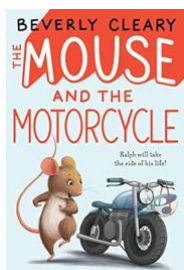
## February

[\*Snowflake Bentley\* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin](#)-picture book

Wilson Bentley was always fascinated by snow. In childhood and adulthood, he saw each tiny crystal of a snowflake as a little miracle and wanted to understand them. His parents supported his curiosity and saved until they could give him his own camera and microscope. At the time, his enthusiasm was misunderstood. But with patience and determination, Wilson cataloged hundreds of snowflake photographs, gave slideshows of his findings and, when he was 66, published a book of his photos. His work became the basis for all we know about beautiful, unique snowflakes today. This biographical tribute to a very special farmer is the perfect holiday gift or snow day read.



[\*The Mouse and the Motorcycle\* by Beverly Cleary](#)-chapter book

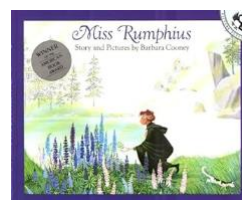


When the ever-curious Ralph spots Keith's red toy motorcycle, he vows to ride it. So when Keith leaves the bike unattended in his room one day, Ralph makes his move. But with all this freedom (and speed!) come a lot of obstacles. Whether dodging a rowdy terrier or keeping his nosy cousins away from his new wheels, Ralph has a lot going on! And with a pal like Keith always looking out for him, there's nothing this little mouse can't handle. This timeless classic is the first of a trilogy, along with *Runaway Ralph* and *Ralph S. Mouse*, all inspired by the author's hope to create appealing books for boys and girls—and by the sight of her son playing with toy cars.

## March

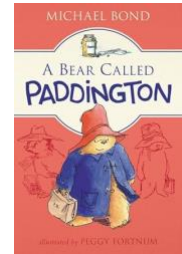
[\*Mrs. Rumphius\* by Barbara Cooney](#)-picture book

Barbara Cooney's story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went. *Miss Rumphius* received the American Book Award in the year of publication.



[A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond](#)-chapter book

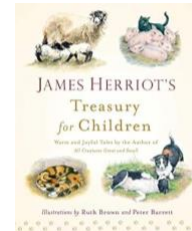
Paddington Bear had traveled all the way from Peru when the Browns first met him in Paddington Station. Since then, their lives have never been quite the same . . . for ordinary things become extraordinary when a bear called Paddington is involved. First published in 1958, *A Bear Called Paddington* has charmed readers for generations with his earnest good intentions and humorous misadventures.



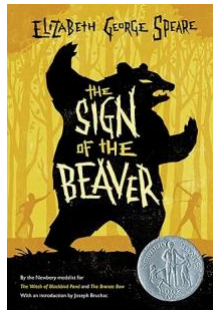
**April**

[James Herriot's Treasury for Children](#)-picture book

Children have always found a delightful friend in James Herriot. His award-winning stories for young readers bring the farmyard world of Herriot's Yorkshire to vibrant life. Featuring a host of adorable animals and colorful townsfolk, each of the stories is narrated by the country vet himself, with all of the warmth, caring, and good humor that have made James Herriot beloved the world over.



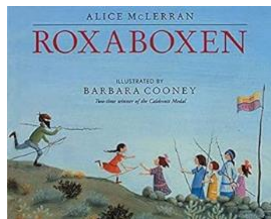
[The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare](#)-chapter book



In this Newbery Honor Book, a thirteen-year-old boy struggles to survive on his own in the wilderness of eighteenth-century Maine. When Matt's father leaves him on his own to guard their new cabin in the wilderness, Matt is scared but determined to be brave and prove that he can take care of himself. And things are going fine until a white stranger steals his gun, leaving Matt defenseless and unable to hunt for his food. Then Matt meets Attean, a Native boy from the Beaver tribe, and soon learns that people called the land around him home long before the white settlers ever arrived. As Attean teaches him more about his own culture, Matt must come to terms with what the changing frontier really means.

**May**

[Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran](#)- picture book



From two-time Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator Barbara Cooney and celebrated children's book author Alice McLerran comes *Roxaboxen*, a treasured story about the magic of a child's imagination. Marian called it Roxaboxen. There across the road, it looked like any rocky hill—nothing but sand and rocks, and some old wooden boxes. But it was a special place. And all children needed to go there was a long stick and a soaring imagination. “A celebration of the transforming magic of the imagination. An original.” —ALA Booklist

[Mrs. Piggle Wiggle by Betty MacDonald](#)-chapter book

This classic series is all about learning and problem-solving. Young readers will enjoy giggling along. Meet Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle! She lives in an upside-down house with a kitchen that is always full of freshly baked cookies. She was even married to a pirate once! Best of all, she knows everything there is to know about children. When Mary turns into an Answer-Backer or Dick becomes Selfish or Allen decides to be a Slow-Eater-Tiny-Bite-Taker, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle has the perfect cure. And her solutions always work, with plenty of laughs along the way.



## **The Purpose of the CLPS Family Read Aloud**

The purpose of the family read aloud is to nurture relationships through family read aloud time. Read aloud time will be allotted through history satellite day assignments. We envision a time in the evenings, perhaps after dinner, where parents take turns reading aloud to the family with relaxed time for discussion about topics, ideas, or even illustrations found in the stories. Some selections will be simple picture books and others will be chapter books to allow for the interest and age of all family members.

### **Reading Aloud**

1. Promotes bonding
  2. Cultivates compassion for others
  3. Provides enjoyment and recreation
  4. Builds connections between spoken and written word
  5. Increases vocabulary and sophisticated language patterns
  6. Increases attention span and listening skills
  7. Strengthens cognition
  8. Increases academic achievement
- 

### **CLPS Profile of a Graduate**

- Christ-Centered Relationships
- Effective Communicators
- Critical Thinkers

#### **Christ-Centered Relationships**

The quality time spent together promotes bonding and strengthens relationships, making it easier for children to develop their social, communication, and interpersonal skills. Reading a story aloud opens exploration of particular events or awareness of the human condition and facilitates discussion about right actions and responsibilities towards others. As part of the rhythm of family time, children appreciate read-aloud time which can nurture a lifelong love of reading.

#### **Effective Communicators**

When children hear words read aloud, they connect printed words to spoken words. This helps them recognize the difference between the arrangement of spoken language and printed text. An oral reading of a story also includes dynamic intonation that brings more complex meaning to the text. Moreover, students are likely to incorporate newly acquired vocabulary into their written and oral communication.

#### **Critical Thinkers**

A well written book exposes children to sophisticated language, which can strengthen their cognitive abilities and expand their understanding of the text. In contrast to electronic screens, reading or being read to promotes a slower unfolding of events and ideas. This inspires children to listen, pay attention, and concentrate, further developing their overall attention span.

