

Christian Life Preparatory School

The Family Read Aloud
(K-5)
2022-2023

CLPS Profile of a Graduate

Christ-Centered Relationships

Effective Communicators

Critical Thinkers

At CLPS, we focus on **nurturing relationships** through **family read aloud** time. We have carefully selected literature for K-5 families to share throughout the school year. 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

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.

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Reading Plan

Fall

September *A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider: The Story of E.B. White* by Barbara Herkert
Stuart Little by E.B. White
Little Goose's Autumn by Elli Woollard

October *John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien* by Caroline McAlister
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Autumn Story (Brambly Hedge) by Jill Barklem

November *Redwall* by Brian Jacques
The Thanksgiving Story by Alice Dalglish
Bear Says Thanks (The Bear Books) by Karma Wilson

December *Through the Wardrobe: How C. S. Lewis Created Narnia* by Lina Maslo
Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
A Simple Christmas on the Farm by Phyllis Alsdurf

Spring

January *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney by Alice B. McGinty
Winter Dance by Marion Bauer

February *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie
The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield
Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner

March *Out of School and Into Nature: The Anna Comstock Story* by Suzanne Slade
The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver by Gene Barretta
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

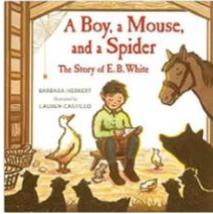
April *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon* by Jacqueline Davies
Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner
The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

May *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick
Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist
by Jess Keating
Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls

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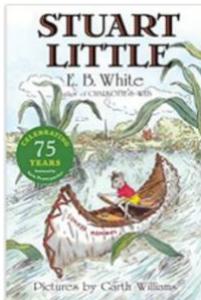
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Book Summaries



A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider: The Story of E.B. White by Barbara Herkert

When young Elwyn White lay in bed as a sickly child, a bold house mouse befriended him. When the time came for kindergarten, an anxious Elwyn longed for the farm, where animal friends awaited him at the end of each day. Propelled by his fascination with the outside world, he began to jot down his reflections in a journal. Writing filled him with joy, and words became his world.



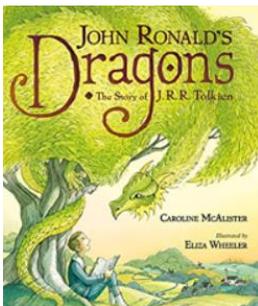
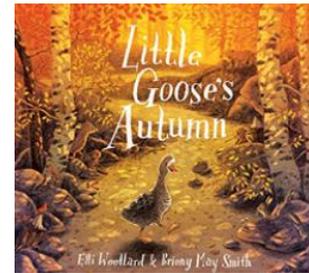
Stuart Little by E.B. White

Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure.

Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named Margalo, disappears from her nest. Determined to track her down, Stuart ventures away from home for the very first time in his life. He finds adventure aplenty. But will he find his friend?

Little Goose's Autumn by Elli Woollard

As summer fades to autumn, a lively young goose feels a change in the air and senses she has something important to do – but what? The beavers are chopping wood, the squirrels are storing nuts in the ground and the bears are busy building a den. The plucky little goose tries to join in, but without great success. She realizes her wings weren't built for chopping wood, or burying food, or building a den, but they were built for something magnificent – they were built for flight . . .



John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien by Caroline McAlister

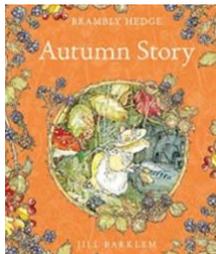
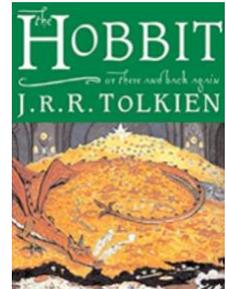
John Ronald loved dragons. He liked to imagine dragons when he was alone, and with his friends, and especially when life got hard or sad. After his mother died and he had to live with a cold-hearted aunt, he looked for dragons. He searched for them at his boarding school. And when he fought in a Great War, he felt as if terrible, destructive dragons were everywhere. But he never actually found one, until one day, when he was a grown man but still very much a boy at heart, when he decided to create one of his own.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

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Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

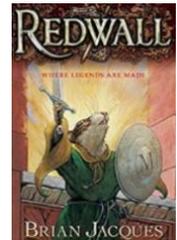


Autumn Story (Brambly Hedge) by Jill Barklem

Bad weather is on the way and the autumn stores are still not gathered in! Quickly, all the mice of Brambly Hedge set to work to finish the harvesting before the rain begins. Primrose, Lord Woodmouse's daughter, meant to help, but somehow she daydreamed her way over the cornfield and into the Chestnut Woods, and before she knew it, she was lost. The sun went down, the wind rose and it began to rain. Primrose was all alone in the dark and she was frightened. Poor Primrose, would she find her way home again?

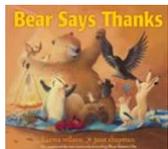
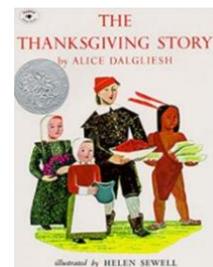
Redwall by Brian Jacques

Welcome to Mossflower Wood, where the gentle mice have gathered to celebrate a year of peace and abundance. All is well...until a sinister shadow falls across the ancient stone abbey of Redwall. It is rumored that Cluny is coming—Cluny, the terrible one-eyed rat and his savage horde—Cluny, who has vowed to conquer Redwall Abbey! The only hope for the besieged mice lies in the lost sword of the legendary Martin the Warrior. And so begins the epic quest of a bumbling young apprentice—a courageous mouse who would rise up, fight back...and become a legend himself.



The Thanksgiving Story by Alice Dalgliesh

Giles, Constance, and Damaris Hopkins are all passengers aboard the crowded Mayflower, journeying to the New World to start a new life. Things get a little more cramped when their baby brother Oceanus is born during the passage. However, when they arrive, there are even worse challenges to face as the Pilgrims are subjected to hunger, cold, and sickness that put their small colony in great danger. With the help of the Native Americans though, they might just be able to survive their first year in this strange land—and have a November harvest to celebrate for generations!



Bear Says Thanks (The Bear Books) by Karma Wilson

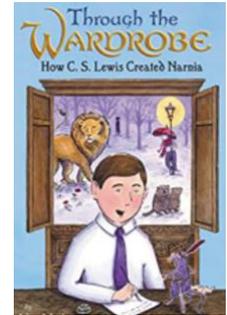
Bear has come up with the perfect way to say thanks—a nice big dinner! When Bear decides to throw a feast, his friends show up one by one with different platters of delicious food to share. There's just one problem: Bear's cupboards are bare! What is he to do?

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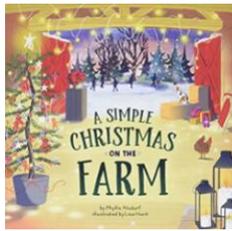
Through the Wardrobe: How C. S. Lewis Created Narnia by Lina Maslo

As a child, Clive Staples Lewis imagined many things . . . heroic animals and knights in armor and a faraway land called Boxen. As he grew up, though, Jack found that the real world was not as just as the one in his imagination. No magic could heal the sick or stop a war, and a bully's words could pierce as sharply as a sword. So, Jack withdrew into books and eventually became a well-known author for adults. But he never forgot the epic tales of his boyhood, and one day a young girl's question about an old family wardrobe inspired him to write a children's story about a world hidden beyond its fur coats . . . a world of fauns and queens and a lion named Aslan. A world of battles between good and evil, where people learned courage and love and forgiveness. A magical realm called Narnia. And the books he would write about this kingdom would change his life and that of children the world over.



Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

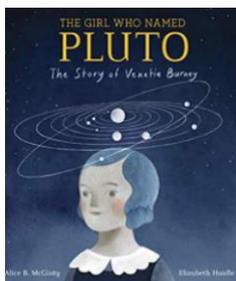
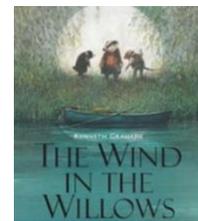


A Simple Christmas on the Farm by Phyllis Alsdurf

When a little girl finds out her family is planning a "simple" Christmas this year, she's not so sure about it. But soon she gets into the spirit of simplicity and generosity by making presents and Christmas decorations with her parents and grandparents on their family farm. She and her mama share Christmas cookies with friends they meet, inviting everyone to join them for Christmas in their little red barn.

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

The Wind in the Willows and its endearing protagonists--Mole, Mr. Toad, Badger, and Ratty--have enchanted children of all ages. Whether the four friends are setting forth on an exciting adventure, engaging in a comic caper, or simply relaxing by the River Thames, their stories are among the most charming in all English literature.



The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney by Alice B. McGinty

When Venetia Burney's grandfather reads aloud from the newspaper about a new discovery--a "ninth major planet" that has yet to be named--her eleven-year-old mind starts whirring. She is studying the planets in school and loves Roman mythology. "It might be called Pluto," she says, thinking of the dark underworld. Grandfather loves the idea and contacts his friend at London's Royal Astronomical Society, who writes to scientists at the Lowell Observatory in Massachusetts, where Pluto was discovered. After a vote, the scientists agree unanimously: Pluto is the perfect name for the dark, cold planet.

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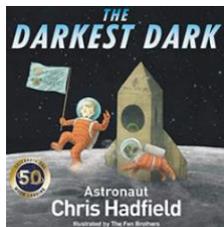
Winter Dance by Marion Bauer

Snow is coming, and it's time to get ready! The squirrel gathers nuts, the geese soar south, and the snowshoe hare puts on its new white coat. But what should the fox do? Each animal advises the fox that its own plan is best, but the fox thinks otherwise—yet it's not until he meets a golden-eyed friend that he finds the perfect way to celebrate the snowfall.



Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie

J. M. Barrie's immortal Peter Pan has fascinated and delighted readers of all ages for more than a hundred years and the tale remains one of the most adapted works of all time. Buzzing with adventure and children who can fly, in Neverland Peter Pan defeats Captain Hook and rescues Wendy and the Lost Boys who return to live their lives while he spends his never-ending childhood in a mythical place populated by fairies, pirates, mermaids, and, from time to time, other children from the outside world.



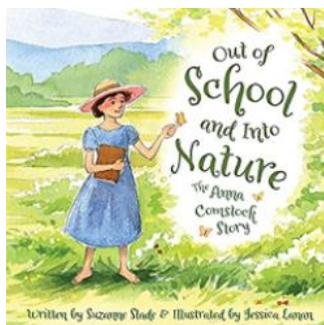
The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield

Chris loves rockets and planets and pretending he's a brave astronaut, exploring the universe. Only one problem--at night, Chris doesn't feel so brave. He's afraid of the dark. But when he watches the groundbreaking moon landing on TV, he realizes that space is the darkest dark there is--and the dark is beautiful and exciting, especially when you have big dreams to keep you company.



Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner

Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt there is a busy world of earthworms digging, snakes hunting, skunks burrowing, and all the other animals that make a garden their home. In this exuberant and lyrical book, discover the wonders that lie hidden between stalks, under the shade of leaves...and down in the dirt.



Out of School and Into Nature: The Anna Comstock Story by Suzanne Slade

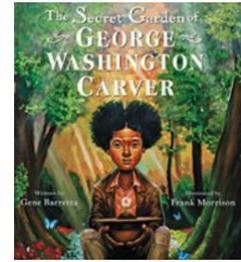
From the time she was a young girl, Anna Comstock was fascinated by the natural world. She loved exploring outdoors, examining wildlife and learning nature's secrets. From watching the teamwork of marching ants to following the constellations in the sky, Anna observed it all. And her interest only increased as she grew older and went to college at Cornell University. There she continued her studies, pushing back against those social conventions that implied science was a man's pursuit. Eventually Anna became known as a nature expert, pioneering a movement to encourage schools to conduct science and nature classes for children outdoors, thereby increasing students' interest in nature.

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The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver by Gene Barretta

When George Washington Carver was just a young child, he had a secret: a garden of his own. Here, he rolled dirt between his fingers to check if plants needed more rain or sun. He protected roots through harsh winters, so plants could be reborn in the spring. He trimmed flowers, spread soil, studied life cycles. And it was in this very place that George's love of nature sprouted into something so much more—his future.



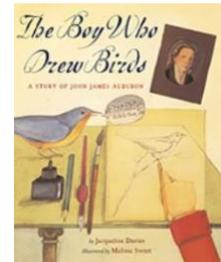
The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

A classic story of friendship between man and beast. Saved from the jaws of the evil tiger Shere Khan, young Mowgli is adopted by a wolf pack and taught the law of the jungle by lovable old Baloo the bear and Bhageera the panther. The adventures of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi the snake-fighting mongoose, little Toomai and the elephant's secret dance, and Kotick the white seal are all part of Mowgli's extraordinary journey with his animal friends.

The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon by Jacqueline Davies

If there was one thing James loved to do more than anything else, it was to be in the great outdoors watching his beloved feathered friends.

In the fall of 1804, he was determined to find out if the birds nesting near his Pennsylvania home would really return the following spring. Through careful observation, James laid the foundation for all that we know about migration patterns today.

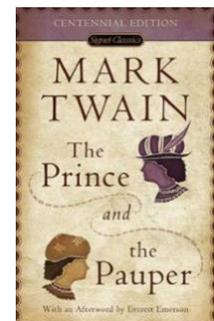


Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner

In this book, readers will discover the plants and animals that make up the rich, interconnected ecosystem of a mountain pond. Over the pond, the water is a mirror, reflecting the sky. But under the water is a hidden world of minnows darting, beavers diving, and tadpoles growing. These secrets and many others are waiting to be discovered over and under the pond.

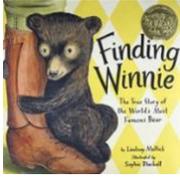
The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain

This treasured historical satire, played out in two very different socioeconomic worlds of 16th-century England, centers around the lives of two boys born in London on the same day: Edward, Prince of Wales and Tom Canty, a street beggar. During a chance encounter, the two realize they are identical and, as a lark, decide to exchange clothes and roles--a situation that briefly, but drastically, alters the lives of both youngsters. The Prince, dressed in rags, wanders about the city's boisterous neighborhoods among the lower classes and endures a series of hardships; meanwhile, poor Tom, now living with the royals, is constantly filled with the dread of being discovered for who and what he really is.



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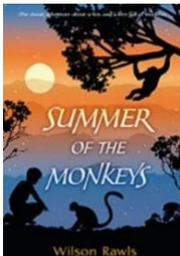
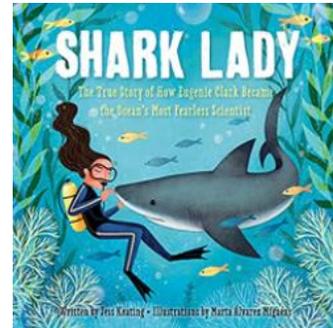
Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick

In 1914, Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in World War I, followed his heart and rescued a baby bear. He named her Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg, and he took the bear to war.

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating

Eugenie Clark fell in love with sharks from the first moment she saw them at the aquarium. She couldn't imagine anything more exciting than studying these graceful creatures. But Eugenie quickly discovered that many people believed sharks to be ugly and scary—and they didn't think women should be scientists.

Determined to prove them wrong, Eugenie devoted her life to learning about sharks. After earning several college degrees and making countless discoveries, Eugenie wrote herself into the history of science, earning the nickname "Shark Lady."



Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls

The last thing fourteen-year-old Jay Berry Lee expects to find while trekking through the Ozark Mountains of Oklahoma is a tree full of monkeys. But then Jay learns from his grandpa that the monkeys have escaped from a traveling circus, and there's a big reward for the person who finds and returns them. His family could really use the money, so Jay sets off, determined to catch them. But by the end of the summer, Jay will have learned a lot more than he bargained for—and not just about monkeys.