

Grade 7-8 Classroom Supply List

- 1 1-subject notebook
- 1 3-subject notebook
- 1 1-subject binder
- Loose leaf paper
- Pencils/Pens
- Red Pens for Correcting
- Pencil Case
- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes

St. Monica School Summer Reading Packet

Rising Grades 7 and 8 — Summer 2026

Dear St. Monica Families,

As we look ahead to summer, we are pleased to share our middle school summer reading selection for students entering Grades 7 and 8: ***The War That Saved My Life*** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley and ***Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers*** by Courtney Mares. Both are available on Amazon or any retail book store.

At St. Monica School, we believe summer reading is an opportunity not only to strengthen reading habits, but also to prepare our students to begin the school year grounded in thoughtful reflection, meaningful conversation, and the values that shape our Catholic school community.

This year's novel offers students a compelling story of courage, perseverance, compassion, trust, and human dignity. These themes connect naturally to our mission as a Catholic school and will help guide classroom conversations when we return in August.

Students are asked to read the novel during the summer and complete the attached reflection. The reflection is intended to encourage thoughtful engagement with the text while remaining manageable and age-appropriate.

Faculty members will also read the novel so that students and teachers may begin the year with a shared experience and a common language around virtue, resilience, and belonging.

Please encourage your child to read thoughtfully, take brief notes along the way, and come to school prepared to discuss both the story and the character growth that emerges throughout the novel.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping foster a love of reading and reflection at home. We are grateful for your support and wish your family a safe, joyful, and restful summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Henderson

Student Directions

Summer Reading Book

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Purpose

This summer reading assignment will help prepare us to begin the school year as a thoughtful, faith-filled learning community. As you read, pay attention to the ways characters face challenges, grow in courage, build trust, and discover their own dignity.

What You Need To Do

- Read the entire novel during the summer.
- Keep brief notes while reading. You do not need to write every chapter. Simply jot down moments that stand out.
- Complete the reflection sheet below.
- Bring your completed reflection to school during the first week.

Helpful Reading Questions

As you read, think about:

- What challenges does Ada face?
- How do her relationships with others begin to change?
- When does she show courage?
- Which moments reveal kindness, trust, or compassion?
- How does her understanding of herself change by the end of the novel?

Suggested Summer Reading Timeline

Week 1 — Read the opening chapters and note your first impressions of Ada.

Week 2 — Notice important relationships and moments of trust.

Week 3 — Pay attention to challenges, courage, and growth.

Week 4 — Finish the novel and prepare your reflection.

Student Reflection Sheet

Name: _____

Part I — Character Growth

Choose one character from the novel.

Character: _____

1. What challenge does this character face?

2. What important choice does the character make?

3. What virtue does the character demonstrate?
(courage, perseverance, compassion, trust, kindness, hope, forgiveness)

4. How does that virtue help the character grow?

Part II — Personal Reflection

Choose two questions and answer each in thoughtful 3 paragraph essay.

Option A: What did this story teach you about courage or resilience?

Option B: What does the novel teach about human dignity and recognizing the worth of others?

Option C: How can this story help shape the kind of school community we want at St. Monica?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The War That Saved My Life* and *Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers

After reading both books, compare the lives, struggles, values, and growth of the main characters. Reflect on how each character faced challenges and inspired others through courage, kindness, perseverance, and faith.

Part 1: Character Comparison Activity

Complete the chart below comparing **Ada Smith** and **Carlo Acutis**.

Category	Ada (<i>The War That Saved My Life</i>)	Carlo Acutis (<i>A Saint in Sneakers</i>)
Major Challenges		
Personality Traits		
Family Relationships		
Important Influences		
Strengths		
How They Help Others		
Personal Growth		

Part 2: Common Themes Between Both Books

Although these books take place in different times and settings, they share several important themes.

1. Perseverance Through Challenges

Ada faces physical limitations, emotional abuse, and fear but learns to persevere. Carlo faces illness later in life and remains faithful, joyful, and committed to helping others.

2. Finding Purpose and Identity

Ada struggles with self-worth and learns she is capable and deserving of love. Carlo understands his purpose through faith, kindness, and helping others.

3. Courage

Both characters demonstrate bravery:

- Ada escapes an unhealthy home and learns new skills.
- Carlo boldly lives his faith and is unafraid to stand apart from peers.

4. Kindness and Helping Others

Ada slowly learns trust and compassion. Carlo intentionally serves others, helps classmates, stands up for those being bullied, and cares for the poor.

5. Supportive Relationships Matter

Ada grows because of Susan and Jamie's love and patience. Carlo is shaped by family, faith mentors, and friendships.

6. Inner Strength

Both characters show that true strength is not physical—it comes from character, resilience, and values.

Part 3: Reflection Questions

Directions: Answer in complete paragraphs (5–7 sentences minimum). Use examples from both books.

1. Both Ada and Carlo faced challenges. Compare how each character handled difficult situations. What made their responses similar or different?
2. How did relationships shape Ada and Carlo into the people they became? Which relationship do you think was most important in each story?
3. Both books teach lessons about courage and perseverance. Which character demonstrated courage in a way that stood out to you most? Explain why.
4. What lesson from both books can middle school students apply to their own lives? Explain using examples from Ada and Carlo.

Creative Reflection

Choose **one**:

- A. Write a letter from Ada to Carlo explaining what she admires about him.
- B. Imagine Carlo met Ada. What advice would he give her? Write a short conversation.
- C. Create a “Character Strengths Poster” comparing the qualities of Ada and Carlo.

Name : _____

Score : _____

Teacher : _____

Date : _____

Arrange and Write the Integers in Increasing Order

1) 22 26 -92 56

2) 92 -53 -60 12

3) -79 -61 55 35

4) -19 -16 21 -93

5) 75 -29 -73 18

6) -40 70 32 -89

7) 88 -88 -66 -54

8) -41 -22 29 67

9) 93 18 -22 -35

10) 0 62 43 -88

11) -4 -6 -97 33

12) -85 99 -64 -84

13) -28 -32 -54 30

14) -20 -84 -59 -60

15) 83 -70 81 84

16) 2 -25 -11 26

Name : _____

Score : _____

Teacher : _____

Date : _____

1) $(+97) + (+10) =$

2) $(+26) + (+74) =$

3) $(+74) + (-81) =$

4) $(-32) + (+88) =$

5) $(-77) + (+70) =$

6) $(+72) + (+61) =$

7) $(+62) + (-15) =$

8) $(+79) + (-15) =$

9) $(+59) + (-51) =$

10) $(-12) + (+77) =$

11) $(+49) + (+64) =$

12) $(-82) + (+91) =$

13) $(+97) + (+50) =$

14) $(+45) + (-11) =$

15) $(-11) + (-60) =$

16) $(-82) + (-53) =$

17) $(-61) + (+67) =$

18) $(-54) + (-77) =$

19) $(-33) + (-69) =$

20) $(-46) + (-68) =$

Name : _____

Score : _____

Teacher : _____

Date : _____

1) $(-89) - (-67) =$

2) $(-70) - (-45) =$

3) $(+31) - (-78) =$

4) $(-63) - (-38) =$

5) $(-66) - (+12) =$

6) $(-92) - (+12) =$

7) $(+61) - (+4) =$

8) $(+40) - (+11) =$

9) $(+35) - (-35) =$

10) $(-46) - (-8) =$

11) $(+40) - (+44) =$

12) $(+94) - (+57) =$

13) $(+28) - (-28) =$

14) $(+19) - (-25) =$

15) $(+4) - (-21) =$

16) $(+93) - (+65) =$

17) $(0) - (-13) =$

18) $(-26) - (+17) =$

19) $(-65) - (+98) =$

20) $(-51) - (-25) =$

21) $(+37) - (+1) =$

22) $(-47) - (-71) =$

23) $(+70) - (-57) =$

24) $(+93) - (+67) =$

25) $(+73) - (-16) =$

26) $(-25) - (-7) =$

27) $(+41) - (+4) =$

28) $(0) - (+41) =$

29) $(-6) - (+87) =$

30) $(-25) - (+75) =$

Name : _____

Score : _____

Teacher : _____

Date : _____

1) $(+7) \times (+88) =$

2) $(+55) \times (+68) =$

3) $(-47) \times (+41) =$

4) $(-92) \times (-71) =$

5) $(+23) \times (+95) =$

6) $(+76) \times (+57) =$

7) $(+14) \times (+43) =$

8) $(-10) \times (+1) =$

9) $(+29) \times (+53) =$

10) $(-5) \times (-66) =$

11) $(+68) \times (+35) =$

12) $(+21) \times (+43) =$

13) $(+69) \times (+35) =$

14) $(-25) \times (+36) =$

15) $(+10) \times (+11) =$

16) $(-44) \times (+6) =$

17) $(+86) \times (+61) =$

18) $(+71) \times (+85) =$

19) $(+41) \times (-30) =$

20) $(-64) \times (+26) =$

Name : _____

Score : _____

Teacher : _____

Date : _____

1) $(+504) \div (+14) =$

2) $(-560) \div (+56) =$

3) $(+640) \div (-32) =$

4) $(+208) \div (-4) =$

5) $(-576) \div (+9) =$

6) $(+4462) \div (+97) =$

7) $(-4200) \div (+100) =$

8) $(+390) \div (+78) =$

9) $(+3492) \div (+97) =$

10) $(+4686) \div (+71) =$

11) $(-234) \div (+3) =$

12) $(+6298) \div (+94) =$

13) $(+4760) \div (-56) =$

14) $(-8217) \div (-99) =$

15) $(+4472) \div (-52) =$

16) $(+3276) \div (+78) =$

17) $(+2583) \div (+63) =$

18) $(+2352) \div (+56) =$

19) $(-2695) \div (+77) =$

20) $(+943) \div (+23) =$