



KIDS & FAMILY Summer Reading **CHALLENGE** —2026—



In this packet, you will find all the information you need to participate in the challenge, including **instructions**, the **reading log**, the book list, and details on **prizes**.

Plus, to thank you for signing up, we have a 30% discount code on ALL Ignatius Press children's book and novels. Use Code CHALLENGE30 at check-out—ends July 31, 2026.

If you have any questions about the challenge, please email rose@ignatius.com.

Instructions:

1. Participation is open to **children ages 6–14**.
2. The challenge starts **June 1, 2026** and closes **August 15, 2026**.
3. Books must be selected from the included book list. Children may include books from above their age group, but not below.
4. Children must read the books, either aloud or on their own.
5. Physical book prizes will only be mailed to United States addresses. Those outside the US may claim a digital prize (coloring packet).
6. If you have multiple children in an age group, only one copy of the book will be sent.
7. To claim your prize(s), please print out the reading log on page 2 of this PDF, one copy for EACH child participating. Fill out the reading log throughout the summer, and email completed logs and your typed complete name/ mailing address to read@ignatius.com no later than August 15, 2026. Please note:
 - **Reading logs must be received by August 15 to be eligible for prizes.**
 - Prizes will be mailed out after all entries are received.
 - We will only ship books once, so please include logs for all participating children in the same email.

Kids and Family Summer Reading Challenge 2026

BOOK LIST

The Family that Reads Together, Grows Together!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Additional eligible titles can be found on any of the book lists included in Cheri Blomquist's [*Before Austen Comes Aesop: The Children's Great Books and How to Experience Them.*](#)

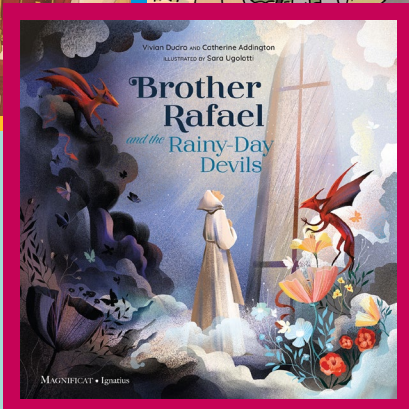
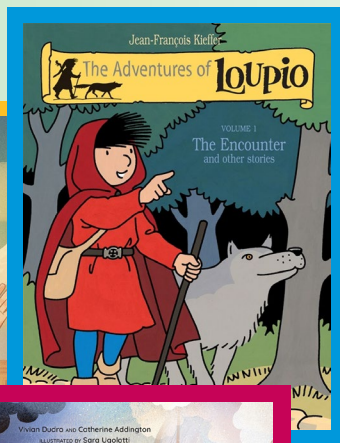
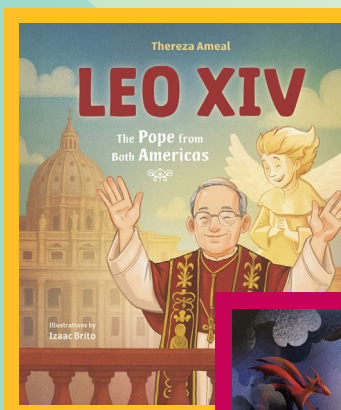
ALL AGES

Age-appropriate adaptations of:

- Tales from Greek mythology
- Tales from Norse mythology
- Folktales from other world traditions
- Bible stories
- *Beowulf*
- *The Illiad* and *The Odyssey* by Homer
- The Arabian Nights
- *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- Any other classic literature (such as the "Great Illustrated Classics" series or similar)

AGES 6-8

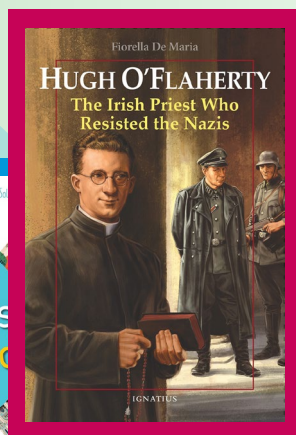
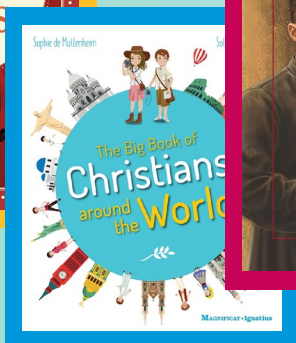
- Any Ignatius Press children's books, such as [these picture books](#) and any books at www.ignatiuskids.com
- *Madeline* (series) by Ludwig Bemelmans
- *The Story of Babar* (series) by Jean de Brunhoff
- *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* and others by Virginia Lee Burton
- *Chanticleer and the Fox* and others by Barbara Cooney
- *Mozart: Gift of God* and others by Demi (including those available here)
- *Strega Nona* and others by Tomie de Paola (including those available here)
- *Mercy Watson* (series) and others by Kate DiCamillo
- *Are You My Mother?* and others by P.D. Eastman
- *The Story About Ping* and others by Marjorie Flack
- *Corduroy* and others by Don Freeman
- *Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag
- *Raggedy Ann Stories* by Johnny Gruelle
- *The People Could Fly* by Virginia Hamilton
- *Bedtime for Frances* and others by Russell Hoban
- *Little Bear* (series) by Else Holmelund
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* and others by Crockett Johnson
- *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Frog Went A-Courtin'* by John Langstaff
- *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf
- *Swimmy* and others by Leo Lionni



Titles for ages 6-8 are generally picture books with text like these.

AGES 6–8 (CONT.)

- *Frog and Toad Are Friends* and others by Arnold Lobel
- *The Poky Little Puppy* by Janette Lowrey
- *George and Martha* (series) by James Marshall
- *Make Way for Ducklings* and others by Robert McCloskey
- *Anansi the Spider* by Gerald McDermott
- *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and others by Laura Numeroff
- *Amelia Bedelia* (series) by Peggy Parish
- *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper
- *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and others by Beatrix Potter
- *Curious George* (series) by Margaret and Hans Rey
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *The Cat in the Hat* and others by Dr. Seuss
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina
- *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe
- *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Corgiville Fair* and others by Tasha Tudor
- *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
- *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams
- *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen
- Any collection of Aesop's fables
- Any collection of classic nursery rhymes



AGES 9–11

- Any age-appropriate Ignatius Press children's books, such as these [graphic novels](#), [non-fiction books](#), and [chapter books](#)
- Any of the [Vision books](#) about the lives of the saints
- Any books published by [Bethlehem Books](#)
- *The Door in the Wall*, and others by Marguerite de Angeli
- *Mr. Popper's Penguin's* by Richard and Florence Atwater
- *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (series) by L. Frank Baum
- *Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink
- *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond
- *The Secret Garden*, and others by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *What Katy Did* (series) by Susan Coolidge
- *Beezus and Ramona* (series), and others by Beverly Cleary
- *Hardy Boys Mysteries* by Franklin W. Dixon
- *My Father's Dragon*, and others by Ruth Stiles Gannett
- *Nancy Drew Mysteries* by Carolyn Keene
- *Just So Stories*, and others by Rudyard Kipling
- *Pippi Longstocking* (series), and others by Astrid Lindgren
- *In Search of a Homeland: The Story of the Aeneid* by Penelope Lively
- *Betsy-Tacy* (series) by Maud Hart Lovelace
- *Strawberry Girl* by Lois Lenski
- *The Story of Dr. Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting
- *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* (series) by Betty MacDonald
- "Nick and Sam" books by Paul McCusker
- *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A.A. Milne
- *Holy Mysteries* by Sophie de Mullenheim
- *The Big Book of Christians Around the World* by Sophie de Mullenheim
- *The Life of Jesus According to Saint Luke* by Sophie de Mullenheim

Titles for ages 9–11 are generally chapter books with some pictures, like these.

AGES 9-11 (CONT.)

- *The Catholic Faith from A to Z* by Sophie de Mullenheim
- *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
- *Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* by Margaret Sidney
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein
- *Ballet Shoes* (series) by Noel Streatfeild
- *Mary Poppins* (series) by P.L. Travers
- *The Boxcar Children* (series) by Gertrud Chandler Warner
- *Charlotte's Web* and others by E.B. White
- *Little House on the Prairie* (series) by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *Rebecca of Sunnybrooke Farm* by Kate Douglas Wiggin
- *The Sword in the Stone* and others by T.H. White

AGES 12-14

- Any age-appropriate Ignatius Press children's books, such as these [graphic novels](#) and [chapter books](#)
- [Any of the "Vision" books](#) about the lives of the saints
- Any chapter books published by [Bethlehem Books](#)
- *Little Women* and others by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander
- "Will Wilder" (series) by Raymond Arroyo
- *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie
- *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll
- *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
- *Redwall* (series) by Brian Jacques
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

- *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles and Mary Lamb
- *A Wrinkle in Time* (series) by Madeleine L'Engle
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* (series) by C.S. Lewis
- *The Giver* (series) by Lois Lowry
- *The Princess and the Goblin* and others by George MacDonald
- "The Virtue Chronicles" (series) by Paul McCusker
- *Anne of Green Gables* (series) and others by L.M. Montgomery
- "In the Shadows of Rome" (series) by Sophie de Mullenheim
- *Five Children and It* and others by E. Nesbit
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and others by Scott O'Dell
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Philippa Pearce
- *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell
- *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri
- *Treasure Island* and others by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Eagle of the Ninth* and others by Rosemary Sutcliff
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *The Lord of the Rings* (three volumes) and others by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and others by Mark Twain
- *The Ignatius Bible* (reading the four Gospels will count as one "book" on the list)

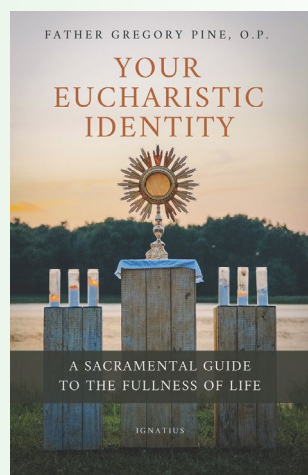
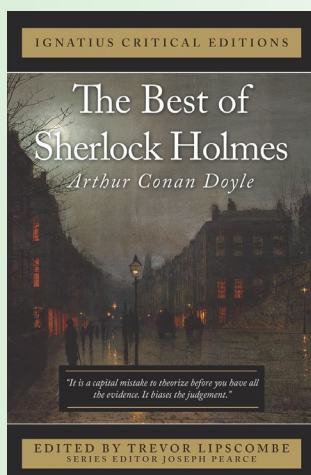
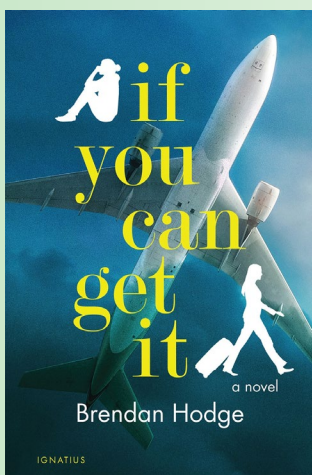


Titles for ages 12-14 are generally more advanced chapter books like these.

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Join the challenge—read along with your children and set a wonderful example!

Enjoy Catholic books, classics, and novels like these:

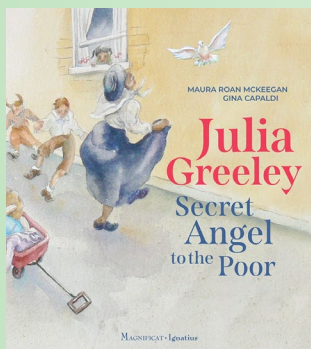


- Any play by Shakespeare
- Any book by Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, or a similar level classic novel
- [The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible](#) or any other *Ignatius Bible*
- Any of the [Ignatius Critical Editions](#)
- Any Ignatius Press books, including all of the [Ignatius Press Novels](#)
- To help you get started, in June and July, we will offer **2 FREE eBooks and 1 FREE audiobook each month—a total of 6 FREE books!** Click [HERE](#) to download our FREE app to get started!

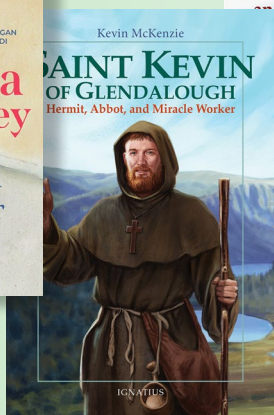
FREE BOOK PRIZES FOR KIDS

Prizes are based on the number of books read and recorded in the included reading log. Completed reading logs must be emailed to read@ignatius.com by **August 15, 2026** to be eligible for prizes.

20 BOOKS OR MORE READ: A free book!*



Ages 6–8:
Julia Greeley



Ages 9–11:
Saint Kevin of Glendalough



Ages 12–14:
Maria von Trapp and Her Musical Family

10–19 BOOKS OR MORE READ:

Printable coloring pages from the Holy Imitation coloring books by Katherine Sotnik.

BONUS:

Everyone who turns in a reading log will be emailed a printable certificate of completion and printable color-your-own bookmark.

*Please note that substitutions may be made due to inventory issues.