



St. James Catholic School
601 NW 131st St
North Miami, FL 33168
(305) 681-3822

St. James Catholic School believes in the importance of reading to strengthen fluency, vocabulary, phonics, and comprehension throughout the summer. Therefore, Summer Reading Assignments are upon us.

For the 2026-2027 school year, it is **mandatory** that all students:

- ❖ Read the Required Summer Reading book for his/her entering grade level.
- ❖ Read a second book of his/her choice at grade level.
- ❖ Complete the book report for the **required** book with parent/guardian assistance.
- ❖ Complete the reading ***Book Report Choice Board*** for the second book.
- ❖ All assignments will be collected the first week of school.

Happy reading and enjoy your summer! 📖☀️

Required Summer Reading 2026 Entering Grade 5

Ways to Make Sunshine

By Renée Watson

Ryan Hart can be and do anything. Her name means "king", that she is a leader, and she is determined to keep growing into the name her parents gave her. She is all about trying to see the best in people, to be a good daughter, sister, and friend.

But Ryan has a lot on her mind. For instance: Dad finally has a new job, but money is still tight. That means some changes, like moving into a new (old) house, and Dad working the night shift. And with the fourth-grade talent show coming up, Ryan wonders what talent she can perform on stage in front of everyone without freezing.

As even more changes and challenges come her way, Ryan always finds a way forward and shows she is a girl who knows how to glow.



Book can be purchased from:

Amazon \$6.61

Barnes and Noble \$8.99

Mandatory Book Report 2026-2027

Name: _____

Chapters 1–4: Moving and Making Do

1. How does Ryan feel about moving into a new house? What does this tell you about her personality?

2. Why is it hard for Ryan to accept that her family can't afford everything she wants?

3. How does Ryan “make sunshine” in a not-so-happy situation? Have you ever had to do the same?

Chapters 5–8: Trying New Things

1. How does Ryan feel about performing in the talent show? What makes her nervous or excited?

2. What do you learn about Ryan’s friendship with Amanda? How do they support each other?

3. Why is Ryan disappointed about her hair? What does this moment teach her—and the reader?

4. What does Ryan’s mom mean when she says, “You are not your hair”? Do you agree?

Chapters 9–12: Family First

1. What do the cooking scenes show about Ryan’s relationship with her grandma?

2. How does Ryan show leadership in her family? Can kids be leaders too? Why or why not?

Chapters 13–16: Celebrating Who You Are

1. How does Ryan grow more confident by the end of the book? What changes?

2. What does Ryan learn about herself and her strengths throughout the story?

3. If you were friends with Ryan, what would you admire most about her? Why

Book Report #2

Your Name (first and last name)

Name of Book

Author

Directions: After reading your book choose **two** activities from the choice board. Use your best effort, neat handwriting, and lots of creativity!

Book Report Choice Board

Story Map Draw a story map showing the title, characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end.	Favorite Part Draw and write about your favorite part of the story and why you liked it.	New Word Booklet Pick 3-5 interesting or tricky words from the book. Write each word, what it means, and draw a picture.
Book Review Write 7-10 sentences about what you liked or didn't like about the book. Give it a star rating!	Character Feelings Pick one character. Draw them and write or tell how they felt at the beginning, middle, and end.	Problem and Solution What was the problem in the story? How did the character solve it? Draw or write about it.
Make a New Book Cover with the title, author, and a picture that shows something important the story	Story Diorama Use a shoebox or paper to create a 3D scene from the book using drawings or small objects.	Letter to a Character Write a short letter to your favorite character. Tell them why you like them and ask a question.