



St. James Catholic School
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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 ***Bingo Card*** for the second book.
- ❖ All assignments will be collected the first week of school.

Happy reading and enjoy your summer! 📖☀️

Mandatory Summer Reading Book Report 2026-2027

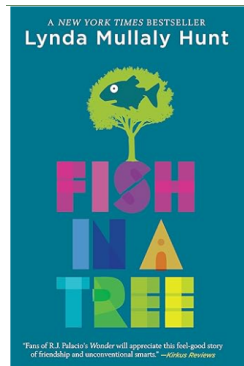
Fish in a Tree

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb?

However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of.

As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.



Book can be purchased from:

Amazon \$7.00

Barnes and Noble \$8.99

Mandatory Summer Reading Book Report 2026-2027

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences

Chapters 1–10: Who Is Ally Nickerson?

1. Why does Ally feel like she's always in trouble? What do her actions reveal about how she sees herself?

2. How would you feel if you had to hide something big about yourself, like Ally does?

3. What clues do we get that Ally might be struggling with something deeper than just behavior?

Chapters 11–20: New Teacher, New Start

1. How does Mr. Daniels treat Ally differently than her other teachers? How does that affect her?

2. Why is it so important to Ally that she wins the class president campaign?

3. Why does Ally admire her brother, Travis? What does their relationship tell us about her home life?

Chapters 21–30: Finding Her Voice

1. What does Mr. Daniels begin to suspect about Ally's learning? How does he support her?

2. Why do you think Ally is afraid to let people know she can't read?

3. How does Ally's friendship with Keisha and Albert change her school experience?

Chapters 31–40: Ally Learns to Believe

1. What does Mr. Daniels does to help Ally see herself as smart?

2. How is Ally changing? What moments show her growing confidence?

3. What are some examples of “invisible gifts” students have in the book?

Chapters 41–51: Ally Stands Tall

1. Why is it powerful when Ally says she wants to be “me”?

2. How do Keisha and Albert support Ally—and how does she support them?

3. What message do you think the author wants us to learn from Ally’s journey?

Book Report #2

Your Name (first and last name)

Name of Book

Author

Directions: Complete the Bingo Reading Card. The goal is to complete **five squares in a row**-across, down, or diagonally.

B	I	N	G	O
List 5 characters from your book and describe them.	Create a PowerPoint or Storyboard retelling the story of your book in ONLY 6 slides.	If you could save one character in your book from a disaster who would it be and why? (paragraph at least ½ page).	Create a travel brochure for the place your book is set.	Write and label five examples of figurative language in your book.
Create a word search with 10 words from your book.	Write a poem about the main character. The poem should be at least 15 lines.	Make a plot diagram for your book. Include exposition, 3 rising action events, the climax, 2 falling action events and resolution.	Using a site such as piktochart.com create an infographic about your book.	Write a newspaper article about an event in your book. Remember to answer the 5 w(s) and the how.
Make an illustrated timeline with at least 5 major events in the story.	Draw a character map with a picture of the main character in the middle and at least 5 traits.	<u>Free Choice</u> 	Write diary entries for two consecutive days as a character from your book.	Design a movie poster for your book. Tell who will play the characters, when the movie premieres and a slogan for the movie.
Write an alternate ending to your book. Must be at least 1 page.	Find one of each of the four types of sentences in your book and label them.	Make a soundtrack for your book with at least five songs. Explain why you chose each song.	Compare and contrast the main character in your book to another fictional character. Must be at least 1 page.	List 5 unfamiliar words in your book. Write their pronunciation and meaning.
In paragraph form describe the setting (time & place) in your book.	Create an online quiz about your book with at least 10 questions.	Write a letter to a character in your book. Telling them how you relate to what they are going through.	Create a radio announcement to advertise your book. Write it in paragraph form.	On plain white paper draw the setting of your book. Leave no white space

Standard Book List for 6th grade

Author	Title
Corbett, Sue	12 Again
Blos, Joan W.	A Gathering of Days.
Lynda Mullaly	Fish in a Tree (Highly Recommended)
Korman, Gordon	Swindle
DuPrau, Jeanne	The City of Ember
Korman, Gordon	Restart
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Paul, Donita K.	DragonQuest
L'Engle, Medeleine	A Wrinkle in Time (Highly Recommended)
Paterson, Katherine	Jacob Have I Loved
Ryan, Pam Munoz	Esperanza Rising
Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain
George, Jean Craighead	Julie of the Wolves
Spinelli, Jerry	Maniac Magee
David Lubar	Hidden Talents (Highly recommended)
Levine, Ellen	If Your Name was changed at Ellis Island
Burnford, Sheila	The Incredible Journey
Fox, Paula	One-Eyed Cat
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons
Curtis, Christopher	The Watsons Go to Birmingham
Clements, Andrew	School Story, The
Babbit, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting
R.J Palacio	Wonder (Highly recommended)
Soto, Gary	Taking Sides
Jason Reynolds	Ghost (highly recommended)
Lowry, Lois	The Giver
Rita Williams-Garcia	One Crazy Summer

