

SCBCS 2026 SUMMER READING: RISING 8TH GRADE



1. *Unbroken- (The Young Adult Adaptation)*, Laura Hillenbrand, Edward Herman, et. al.

Annotations:

- Using sticky notes, take detailed notes throughout the book where you identify moments connected to Catholic Social Teaching principles (see CST handout included). For each annotation, include the CST principle it reflects, explain the connection, and note the page number.
- Be prepared to complete a project when you return to school, so the more notes you take, the more prepared you will be.

Additional Book Recommendations for 8th grade:

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells

I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

The Latehomecomer by Kao Kalia Yang

Hush by Jacqueline Woodson

Coraline by Neil Gaiman

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

The Book Thief by Mark Zusak

A Light in the Darkness by Albert Marrin

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

8th Grade Summer Reading Reference Sheet:

Core Principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person:**

The foundational principle, holding that every person is made in God's image and has inherent, inviolable dignity.

- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation:**

Marriage and family are central social institutions that must be supported.

People have a right and duty to participate in society to promote the common good.

- **Rights and Responsibilities:**

Every person has a fundamental right to life and necessities for human decency. Correspondingly, society has a duty to protect these rights.

- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:**

The needs of the poor and vulnerable must be prioritized.

- **Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers:**

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is a form of participation in God's creation, and workers have rights to decent wages, private property, and organizing.

- **Solidarity:**

The belief that all people belong to one human family, requiring us to stand with and care for our brothers and sisters, especially the poor.

- **Care for God's Creation (Stewardship):**

A requirement to show respect for the Creator by caring for the environment.