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Middle School Summer Reading 2025

Philosophy of Summer Reading
As our students immerse themselves in varied activities this summer, our fondest wish in the English department is that they will tuck a book under their arms as they go. Reading allows us to gather knowledge, gain empathy, think critically about our world, and derive pleasure from the printed word. Former U.S. Senator and English professor S.I. Hayakawa observes that, "It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish."

Instructions for Students:
Please read this entire document and complete both parts of the summer assignments. All English classes will begin the year with discussions, activities, and writing assignments based on the assigned summer reading books. Instructors suggest that students thoroughly review the required book toward the end of the summer. Teachers will conduct classroom discussions about the selection during the first few weeks of school. All middle school English students will be assessed on the required book for their grade.

Part I: Required Summer Reading Assignment

Rising 6th Grade Required Reading:
Among the Hidden, Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963, Christopher Paul Curtis

Rising 7th Grade Required Reading:
The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton
When My Name Was Keoko, Linda Sue Park

Rising 8th Grade Required Reading:
True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News, Cindy L. Otis
The Adoration of Jenna Fox, Mary E. Pearson

Part II: In addition, rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will be required to complete assigned coursework on IXL (click here for directions). This is a program that strengthens grammar, mechanics, sentence fluency and more!

If you are interested in finding additional recommended titles for your Middle School student, please see the following link: Middle School Recommended Reading List Link 2025