



6th Grade Summer Reading 2025

Welcome to Middle School! Your first assignment is to complete the summer reading project. Choose one of the books that you haven't read before from the included book list. Then, create a physical display (instructions below) of the book to be displayed during a special event at the beginning of the school year.

Physical Display

The physical display should be a poster, trifold, etc. that includes the following items:

- Title and author of book
- Brief summary of main conflict
- Setting (time, place, and conditions)
- Protagonist
- Who (group of people) you recommend reads the book and why
- Connection to the BRICKS (belonging, respect, integrity, community, kindness, and scholarship)
 - Choose TWO (2) of the BRICKS that are demonstrated in your novel
 - Write one paragraph (5-7 sentences) for each of the BRICKS explaining how the book demonstrated the qualities that you chose (2 paragraphs total; each paragraph is 5-7 sentences)
- Considerations:
 - The physical display will be on display for teachers and other students.
 - Make sure the display is neat and organized.
 - You want to draw people in by making the display interesting but not too overwhelming.

Book List

Please choose a book that you and your parents/guardians feel is appropriate for you.

1. *Heroes* by Alan Gratz

This historical fiction novel follows two boys during the Pearl Harbor Attacks on December 7, 1941.

2. *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

Siblings Meg and Charles Wallace, along with their friend Calvin, go on an intergalactic adventure to find their missing father.

3. *Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz

This novel weaves together the stories of three young teenagers as they each experience a natural disaster and then come together to create a positive change.

4. *The Best Liars in Riverview* by Lin Thompson

When Aubrey's best friend, Joel, disappears, there is a lot that Aubrey must reflect upon including her feelings about who she truly is.

5. *Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

Paul has always been afraid of his older brother, and when a move to Tangerine, FL doesn't stop the strange and slightly terrifying things his brother does, a connection with his soccer teammates starts to uncover a sinister mystery.

6. *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Leo, like all the kids at his school, doesn't really know what to make of Stargirl, a new girl who lives her life against the grain of "normal".

7. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson

Jess and his neighbor Leslie tend to be on the outside at school. So, they create a secret place called Terabithia where Jess learns about friendship, the power of imagination, and grief.

8. *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

This historical fiction novel follows 14 year old Mattie Cook as she tries to survive the Yellow Fever outbreak in 1793 Philadelphia.

9. *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt

Winnie is captivated by a family she meets that drinks out of a spring that gives them immortality.

10. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill

Luna is given magical powers instead of being "sacrificed" and the novel follows her journey toward understanding.

11. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

This historical fiction novel follows the story of Esperanza, a girl who leads a life of privilege in Mexico and is then forced to move to a migrant camp in the United States after the death of her father.

12. *Restart* by Gordon Korman

Chase was an 8th grade star athlete before he suffered an injury that took his memory away. During his recovery, he must figure out why so many people seem scared of him and what he wants to do once he finds out.

13. *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Josh and JB are identical twins who live for life on the basketball court. Will the pressure of the big game tear them apart or bring them closer together?

14. *Jennifer Chan is Not Alone* by Tae Keller

Jennifer and Mallory become friends the summer that Jennifer moves to the neighborhood. But once school starts, the pressure of fitting in causes Mallory to join in with the kids who bully Jennifer. When Jennifer disappears, Mallory starts searching for her.

15. *Haven Jacobs Saves the Planet* by Barbara Dee

Haven suffers from severe anxiety when it comes to the environment. Can she use that anxiety to make positive changes for the earth that she so dearly loves?

16. *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan

Amina struggles to find balance between her Pakistani culture and her American life. When tragedy strikes her local Mosque, she searches for a way to be true to all aspects of who she is.

17. *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams

Genesis has a lot to deal with between bullying at school and being evicted from her home once again. Will Genesis be able to find a way to love herself despite what others think and say?

18. *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor

Charlie learns the true meaning of family with the help of her dog and aunt and uncle.

19. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

A personal narrative, this book shares some of the experiences the author had as a young girl growing up during the Civil Rights Movement.

20. *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan

A harmonica connects three different individuals from 1933 Germany, 1934 Pennsylvania, and 1942 California.

21. *Show Me A Sign* by Ann Clare LeZotte

This historical fiction novel takes place in Martha's Vineyard in 1805. The protagonist experiences prejudice for being deaf when she is kidnapped from her home and taken to Boston.

22. *Coming Up Cuban* by Sonia Manzano

This historical fiction novel outlines the life of four different protagonists as they live through the Cuban Revolution.

23. *Linked* by Gordon Korman

When their school is vandalized with Anti-Semitic symbols, the protagonists in this book work together to create positive change.

24. *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery

This classic novel follows the adventures of Anne, a red-haired orphan who is taken in by a middle-aged woman and her brother.

25. *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate

Red is an old tree in town that houses many animals. When a Muslim family new to the neighborhood is being harrassed, Red breaks the rules of nature to talk to some of the humans involved.

26. *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

Jeffrey Lionel Magee simply wants a home. Will the town of Two Mills be able to provide him one?

27. *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Castle Cranshaw is angry, and his traumatic childhood is to blame. When he joins the Defender Track Team, he learns that his past doesn't have to define who he is.

28. *Rez Ball* by Byron Graves

When Jaxon dies in a car accident, his younger brother Tre is devastated. Can the basketball team on their reservation of the Ojibwe community help him through his grief?

29. *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri

Loosely based on the author's own experiences, this book follows Khosrou who flees Iran with his mother and sister and lives as a refugee in Italy and then Oklahoma.

30. *Return to Sender* by Julia Alvarez

Tyler is unsure of the migrant workers who are hired to help on the farm after his father was injured in a farming accident.

31. *Ellen Outside the Lines* by A.J. Sass

While on a class trip to Barcelona, middle schooler Ellen tries to adjust to unexpected changes that she finds challenging as a neurodivergent student trying to find her place.

32. *Zenobia July* by Lisa Bunker

When Zenobia's conservative parents die and she moves in with her aunt and her aunt's wife, Zenobia uses her computer skills to stop a bully posting hateful comments online while figuring out who she is as she transitions to being female.

33. *Nikhil Out Loud* by Maulik Pancholy

Nikhil seems to have it all together as a voice actor to an animated series. However, when he moves to Ohio, he feels out of place as an Indian American 13 year old who suffers from stage fright.

34. *Alone* by Megan E. Freeman

Maddie is left alone when her town is evacuated. She is forced to survive on her own which teaches her to appreciate the things around her and forces her to learn more about herself.

35. *Halfway to Harmony* by Barbara O'Connor

Ten-year old Walter Tipple is grieving the loss of his brother Tank, who went to war and never came back, when he meets his new neighbor, learns to take chances, and becomes the person he wants to be.

36. *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston

Amari's older brother goes missing while working with a supernatural organization, and Amari is determined to find him.

37. *Finding Junie Kim* by Ellen Oh

After hearing about her grandfather's experience in the Korean War, Korean American 12 year old Junie Kim is determined to speak out about the racism and bullying that she has encountered in school.

38. *Down to Earth* by Betty Culley

10 year old Henry is fascinated by rocks. When a meteorite falls on his family farm, he is eager to investigate. Things become challenging when the water in town dries up and his neighbors start blaming Henry's family and the meteorite.

39. *Weird Kid* by Greg Van Eekhout

Jake is an alien raised by the humans who found him. When mysterious goo that once formed Jake starts appearing around town, will Jake be able to maintain his secret?

*This list was created based off of several "Best Middle Grade Book" lists. Books were chosen to include a variety of interests and give students an opportunity to read about various individuals.