

Middle School Summer Reading

2025-2026

Student Name: _____ **Novel Title:** _____

This summer we would like you to do as much reading as you can. Reading will keep your mind active, develop a strong vocabulary, and build your comprehension. Plus, reading can show you different places, people, and teach you things about our world.

On the **first day of school**, please remember:

1. Bring your completed packet to the first LA class of the year.
 - a. Your teacher will not print your packet for you or accept an electronic version of your work. Please plan ahead to make sure you have a printed packet on the first day of class.
2. You will take an AR test over the book you read, so choose a book you have not read before.
 - a. Please note: if you have already read the book, you will not be able to test again.
3. You will need a copy of the book to use during the first two weeks of school.

Instructions:

The Middle School Literature teachers have selected a variety of novels this year to choose from. We hope that each student will find a book to enjoy. You are welcome to read as many books as you like, but you only need to complete the summer reading packet over one of the novels.

The summer packet is designed to split your book into fourths.

1. Choose one book from the list that you **have not ever read before**.
2. Complete one reading response page over each fourth of the book.
3. **Use complete sentences and correct grammar** including correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
4. You may work at your own pace; however, we encourage you to complete the novel within a four-week schedule.
5. All the work completed in this packet must be your own unique work.
 - a. Copying other people's work, or receiving inappropriate help from others, including AI or other technological sources, means you will receive no credit. We will also need to contact home to communicate with your parent(s) or guardians, and you may earn other consequences for this behavior (see "Plagiarism Policy" in the Student Handbook).

Please remember, this packet is to help you remember what *you* learned, so *you* will be ready for the upcoming work in the fall. We want you to stay sharp over the summer, so we ask you to practice your reading skills and show us what you can do.

Happy Reading!

Choose one book from the following list that you have not read before:

Book Title	Author	Genre + Short Summary	Lexile Level	AR Points
<i>Oracle - Sunken Earth</i> (Vol. 1)	C.W. Trisef	Science Fiction – Ret is a young man with mysterious origins and no memory of his past. His new family and friends discover his supernatural powers and strange scars on his hands. But what is his destiny?	780	13
<i>Dealing with Dragons</i>	Patricia C. Wrede	Fantasy – Bored with traditional palace life, a princess joins a group of dragons and fights to save them from some disreputable wizards.	830	8
<i>Asha and the Spirit Bird</i>	Sally Odgers	Modern Fiction/Spiritual - In modern-day India, 12-year-old Asha journeys across the Himalayas to find her father and save her home--guided by a mythical bird and a green-eyed tiger who Asha believes are the spirits of her ancestors.	840	8
<i>90 Miles to Havana</i>	Enrique Flores-Galbis	Modern Fiction - Julian's parents, hoping to protect Julian and his brothers from the turmoil in Cuba, send them to the United States in 1961, where the boys live in a Miami refugee camp.	790	10
<i>All Alone in the Universe</i>	Lynne Rae Perkins,	Modern Fiction - Debbie is dismayed when her best friend, Maureen, starts spending time with ordinary, boring Glenna. Funny and caring, Debbie learns to look for silver linings in middle school.	720	4
<i>Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream</i>	Tanya Lee Stone	Nonfiction – Stories of thirteen women who, in the 1960s, challenged social norms and government policies to try to prove they had what it took to be among the first astronauts.	980	4
<i>Bloomability</i>	Sharon Creech	Realistic Fiction - Domenica "Dinnie" Doone has spent her life moving from place to place with her family. When her aunt and uncle invite her to attend an international boarding school in Switzerland, Dinnie embarks on a journey of self-discovery.	860	7
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	L.M. Montgomery	Historical Fiction - Anne Shirley is an imaginative and talkative orphan who is mistakenly sent to live with a brother and sister on Prince Edward Island. Though they wanted a boy to help on their farm, Anne quickly wins their hearts—and the hearts of everyone in town—with her big dreams, dramatic personality, and kind heart. As Anne grows up, she faces challenges, friendships, and adventures that shape who she becomes.	990	17
<i>Greenglass House</i>	Kate Milford	Mystery - Milo is looking forward to a quiet winter break at his family's inn, Greenglass House—but then unexpected guests start arriving during a snowstorm. Each one has a mysterious reason for being there. With the help of a new friend, Milo sets out to solve the secrets hidden in the house, uncovering stories, clues, and even some family history along the way.	800	13
<i>Eragon</i>	Christopher Paolini	Fantasy - When 15-year-old Eragon finds a mysterious blue stone in the mountains, he soon discovers it's a dragon egg—and he's now a Dragon Rider. With his dragon, Saphira, and a growing sense of destiny, Eragon must face powerful enemies and learn the skills needed to fight an evil empire.	710	25
<i>Bea and the New Deal Horse</i>	L.M. Elliott	Historical Fiction - Thirteen-year-old Bea and her younger sister, Vivian, are left in the hayloft of a Virginia horse farm by their father, who can no longer care for them after the stock market crash devastates their family. The farm's owner, Mrs. Scott, is facing her own hardships, including financial strain and a drought. Bea convinces Mrs. Scott to take them in, offering to help around the farm. She forms a bond with a troubled chestnut horse, believing that training him for competitions could save the farm and secure a place for her and her sister.	770	9

Book Title	Author	Genre + Short Summary	Lexile Level	AR Points
<i>Paige Not Found</i>	Jen Wilde	Adventure, Science Fiction - Paige, an autistic teenager, discovers that her parents enrolled her in neurological study without her consent. A chip implanted in her brain monitors her mood, brain activity, and location, even altering her emotions. As the tech company behind the chip plans a merger with a major social network known for data exploitation, Paige feels betrayed and questions her ability to trust—even her own mind. Determined to reclaim her autonomy, she seeks out other teens affected by the study to reveal the truth and halt the merger.	810	8
<i>Fight for the Hidden Realm</i>	Siobhan McDermott	Fantasy - Twelve-year-old orphan Yeung Zhi Ging lives in a village above the cloud sea, where she feels like an outsider. Her only hope for a different life is to become a Silhouette—an apprentice to the immortals. After a failed attempt to impress a Silhouette scout leads to a dragon attack, Zhi Ging believes her chances are over. However, the scout recognizes her potential and offers her a second chance.	940	13
<i>The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels</i>	Beth Lincoln	Mystery - In the Swift family, tradition dictates that each child is named and defined by the sacred Family Dictionary at birth. Shenanigan Swift, labeled as a mischief-maker, is determined to forge her own path. During a grand family reunion, a murder occurs, and Shenanigan decides to solve the mystery. As she delves into the investigation, she uncovers family secrets and questions the constraints of predetermined identities.	810	12
<i>Slugfest</i>	Gordon Korman	Realistic Fiction, Sports - The story centers on Yash, a star athlete at Robinette Middle School who discovers that his participation in high school JV sports has caused him to miss a required eighth-grade PE credit. To graduate, he must attend summer school for Physical Education Equivalency—nicknamed "Slugfest." There, he joins a group of misfit classmates, and together they uncover a scandal that could render their summer efforts meaningless.	780	9
<i>Forget Me Not</i>	Ellie Terry	Novel in Verse that tells the story of middle school girl Calliope Snow (who goes by Calli June) as she learns to accept her Tourette syndrome and make a best friend despite her mom constantly moving their family from town to town. This book explores themes of acceptance, friendship, and conflict resolution.	670	3
<i>Projekt 1065</i>	Alan Gratz	Historical Fiction – this YA novel follows a 13-year-old protagonist who is an undercover spy living in Nazi Germany during WWII. He goes undercover to a Hitler Youth camp, where he explores themes of loyalty, friendship, and how to protect those he cares about- as well as himself.	780	10
<i>Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis</i>	K.R. Gaddy	Non-fiction - This book details a group of working-class teens who resisted the Nazis during WWII.	950	11
<i>The Night Gardener</i>	Jonathan Auxier	Horror/Mystery - Two abandoned Irish siblings travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house- but the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious specter and an ancient curse that threatens their very lives!	690	11

Reader Response 1

I read from page _____ to page _____ (First ¼ of your book)

Vocabulary: As you read, write down 2 unfamiliar words, and the exact quote from the book, and the dictionary definition of the word. These words might be completely unknown or a little unfamiliar to you. You need to have 2 words, the sentence from the book, a citation, and the dictionary definition filled in completely.

	Word	How it is used in the text (write the sentence from the book, use MLA citations)	Dictionary Definition
1.			
2.			

Connections: As you read, write down 2 connections that you make with the text. Connections can be based on your personal life, background knowledge, or another book you have read. Use complete sentences. Example: *This book/character reminds me of _____ because _____.*

	Concrete Detail from the Text (write the quote here, use MLA citations)	Connection Made (explain the kind of connection using complete sentences)	Identify Connection Type (Text-to-Self, Text-to-World, Text-to-Text)
1.			
2.			

*Write one characteristic the main character has shown in the first part of the novel. Then provide text evidence (quote) that shows the characteristic through actions, thoughts, or dialogue.

Character Trait: (<i>Not</i> an emotion like anger, but a personality trait like quick-tempered.) Use complete sentences.	Text Evidence (quote) from novel and page number (use MLA citation). Explain how the quote shows the Character Trait. Use complete sentences.
Character name and trait:	Evidence: Explanation:

Reader Response 2

I read from page _____ to page _____ (Second ¼ of the novel)

Vocabulary: As you read, write down two unfamiliar words, the exact quote, and the dictionary definition.

	Word	How it is used in the text (write the sentence from the book, use MLA citations)	Dictionary Definition
1.			
2.			

Visualization: Draw a picture of what you visualized while reading this week. Label your picture by providing a 1-line summary or quote from the novel.

Questions: As you read, write down two questions (teacher-like questions) that you have about the text.

1.	
2.	

*Write a second characteristic that the main character has shown in the second part of the novel. Then provide text evidence (quote) that shows that characteristic through actions, thoughts, or dialogue.

Character Trait: (<i>Not</i> a feeling like anger, but a personality trait like quick-tempered.) <u>Use complete sentences.</u>	Text Evidence (quote) from novel and page number (use MLA citation). Explain how the quote shows the Character Trait. Use complete sentences.
Character name and trait:	Evidence: Explanation:

Reader Response 3

I read from page _____ to page _____ (Third ¼ of the novel)

Connections: As you read, write down two connections that you make with the text. Use complete sentences.

Example: *The part in the book when _____ is like _____ because _____.*

	Concrete Detail from the Text (write the quote here)	Connection Made (explain the kind of connection using complete sentences, use MLA citation)	Identify Connection Type (Text-to-Self, Text-to-World, Text-to-Text)
1.			
2.			

Prediction: Make one prediction about what will happen next in the book. Include **why** you are making this prediction.

I predict that

because

*Write a third characteristic that the main character has shown in this part of the novel. Then provide text evidence quote that shows that characteristic through actions, thoughts, or dialogue.

Character Trait: (<i>Not</i> a feeling like anger, but a personality trait like quick-tempered.) Use complete sentences.	Text Evidence (quote) from novel and page number (use MLA citation). Explain how the quote shows the Character Trait. Use complete sentences.
Character name and trait:	Evidence: Explanation:

Reader Response 4

I read from page _____ to page _____ (Last ¼ of the novel)

Literary Element: Conflicts are challenges in the story between the main character(s) and other forces. Through challenges, characters grow by gaining new knowledge and perspective. You may pull quotes from any part of the book to show challenges that helped the main character(s) grow.

Evidence	Opponent	Analysis
Cite three examples of challenges faced by a main character(s). Include page number in parentheses (use MLA format for citations). <u>The conflict and quote can be from any part of the book.</u>	Against what or whom did the character struggle? 1. Person v Person, 2. Person v Circumstances, 3. Person v Nature, 4. Person v Society, or 5. Person v Self Identify one challenge per quote.	<u>Explain: Answer both questions for each quote.</u> 1. How does the quote show the main character and the opponent in the conflict? (Who is in conflict? Why is there a conflict?) 2. What does the conflict tell you about the main character(s) involved? What does this tell you about the character and his/her personality trait(s)?
1.		
2.		
3.		

*Write a fourth characteristic that the main character has shown in this part of the novel. Then provide text evidence quote that shows that characteristic through actions, thoughts, or dialogue.

Character Trait: (<i>Not</i> a feeling like anger, but a personality trait like quick-tempered.) <u>Use complete sentences.</u>	Text Evidence (quote) from novel and page number (use MLA citation). Explain how the quote shows the Character Trait. Use complete sentences.
Character name and trait:	Evidence: Explanation: