



Dear Seacrest Country Day School Families,

We're excited to announce a wonderful opportunity to support your student's reading journey this summer. Seacrest Country Day School is partnering with Books on Third, a new independent bookstore opening this fall in Naples, to supply our summer reading books. By choosing Books on Third, we're supporting a local business and investing in our community.

Engaging with books during the summer months offers significant benefits for young readers. It helps maintain the reading skills they've worked hard to develop throughout the school year, ensuring a smoother transition back to learning in the fall. Summer reading expands vocabulary, enhances comprehension, and nurtures critical thinking skills. It also opens doors to new perspectives, sparks creativity, and cultivates a lifelong enjoyment of literature.

Each student will receive their carefully selected book(s) during the last week of school. These titles have been chosen with thoughtful connections to our curriculum, offering engaging opportunities for continued learning and exploration over the summer.

For families who enjoy audiobooks, the summer reading titles will also be included in Seacrest playlists on Books on Third's [Libro.fm](https://libro.fm) account. Please make sure you choose Books on Third as your store. Additionally, we encourage you to explore [Bookshop.org](https://bookshop.org) for other suggested titles for both students and parents as well as explore summer reading choice options for various grade levels (be sure to select Books on Third as your bookstore to see the Seacrest reading lists).

We look forward to a summer filled with captivating stories.

Warmly,

The Seacrest Country Day School Team & Books on Third Team

Active Reading Strategies

Active reading simply means reading something with a determination to understand and evaluate it for its relevance to your needs.

Reading or re-reading material is not an effective way to understand and learn. Actively and critically engaging with the content will save you time and frustration as well as help you remember.

Try these techniques to make your reading active.

- Physically **annotate** in the margins with a pen or pencil to summarise points, raise questions, challenge what you've read, jot down examples and so on. This is **the biggest thing you can do to become an active reader** as it will help you remember the content better.
- **Underline** or **highlight** key words and phrases as you read. When you return to it later on, you can easily see which points you identified as important. Be selective - too much highlighting won't help. This will also help when finding quotes for essay writing.
- Read critically by **asking questions** of the text. For example: Who wrote it? When? Who is the intended audience?
- **Test yourself** by reading for half an hour, putting the text away and jotting down the key points from memory. Go back to the text to fill in gaps.
- **Explain** what you've read to someone else.
- **Pace yourself**. Do a little reading here and there. Don't try to read it all in the days just before we return to school.

6th Grade Summer Reading:

Turtle in Paradise & The View From Saturday

Ms. Onanian (konanian@seacrest.org) has provided detailed information and directions for students about each of her summer reading books. Please click on the provided links for guiding questions and assignments that require student completion.

Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer Holm

- [Turtle in Paradise guided reading questions](#)

The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

- [The View From Saturday guided reading questions](#)

7th Grade Summer Reading:

96 Miles & Hear Me

Ms. Onanian (konanian@seacrest.org) has provided detailed information and directions for students about each of her summer reading books. Please click on the provided links for guiding questions and assignments that require student completion.

96 Miles by J.L Esplin

- [96 Miles intro and directions](#)
- [96 Miles guided reading questions packet](#)

Hear Me by Kara O'Malley Cerra

- [Hear Me guided reading questions](#)

8th Grade Summer Reading: *Legend, Refugee, The Maze Runner, and The Lottery & Other Stories*

Mr. Hacker (dhacker@seacrest.org) has provided a synopsis and directions for students about each of his summer reading books. Please click on the provided links for guiding questions and assignments that require student completion.

Required

Legend by Marie Lu

[Legend by Marie Lu Synopsis and Guided Reading Questions](#)

Choose ONE

Refugee by Alan Gratz

[Refugee by Alan Gratz Synopsis and Guided Reading Questions](#)

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

[The Maze Runner by James Dashner Synopsis and Guided Reading Questions](#)

The Lottery & Other Stories by Shirley Jackson

[The Lottery & Other Stories by Shirley Jackson Synopsis and Guided Reading Questions](#)

9th Grade Summer Reading: *A Wrinkle in Time* & *The Hobbit*

For Rising 9th Graders | 9-Week Plan

Why read *A Wrinkle in Time*?

A Wrinkle in Time, by Madeline L'Engle, offers a fascinating exploration of science fiction, family relationships, and the battle between light and darkness. L'Engle's novel encourages readers to think deeply about the power of love, the importance of self-acceptance, and the value of standing up for what is right, even in the face of fear. The unique blend of science and fantasy takes readers on a journey through different dimensions, and the characters' personal growth, especially Meg's, provides a relatable story of overcoming self-doubt and finding inner strength. By reading this novel, students will encounter important themes of courage, loyalty, and the importance of critical thinking, all while diving into a story that challenges conventional notions of time, space, and what it means to be truly brave.

Why read *The Hobbit*?

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien is a timeless adventure that introduces readers to the world of Middle-earth and the hero's journey. Tolkien's beloved tale follows Bilbo Baggins, an unlikely hero who is thrust into an epic quest filled with danger, magic, and moral lessons. Through Bilbo's transformation from a reluctant adventurer to a brave and wise hero, readers are invited to reflect on the importance of courage, friendship, and making choices for the greater good. The novel's rich world-building, memorable characters, and timeless themes of greed, loyalty, and bravery make it an exciting and meaningful read. As Bilbo faces dragons, trolls, and internal dilemmas, students will also discover deeper lessons about the complexities of human nature and the value of personal growth in the face of adversity.

Student Tips

- **Pace Yourself:** Aim to read about 40–65 pages per week. There are approximately 11 weeks of “summer break.” Below is a suggested way to pace yourself over a 9-week period. Start early and plan accordingly.
- **You Can Do It:** Don’t get discouraged if a book seems “hard” at first. You will quickly find the rhythm, tone, and “voice” of each text. Stick with it.
- **Use a Journal:** Write a few sentences each week responding to the guiding question.
- **Mark Up the Text:** Highlight or note words, passages, or quotes that stand out. Add notes about the text in the margins.
- **Be Ready:** Be prepared to discuss and be assessed on your knowledge of both books when we return to school the week of August 18!
- **Watching is NOT a Substitute for Reading:** The movie versions of these texts have significant differences from the books themselves. Read the books!

From your teacher who loves to read - I’d love to hear from you over the summer if you have any questions or if you just want to introduce yourself or share something cool from your reading. Can’t wait to meet you in August! - Mrs. Summers

jsummers@seacrest.org

Weekly Breakdown

Week	Book	Chapters Covered	Pages (Approx.)	Focus & Guiding Questions
Week 1	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Ch. 1-3	50 pages	Meet Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin. What makes Meg feel like an outsider? What role does family play in her journey?
Week 2	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Ch. 4-6	40 pages	Travel to new worlds. How do the characters respond to the unknown? What do the new planets reveal about good vs. evil?

Week 3	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Ch. 7-9	50 pages	Confronting IT. How do emotions, logic, and love compete in Camazotz? What does Meg learn about herself?
Week 4	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	Ch. 10-12 (Finish)	40 pages	Return and transformation. What did love help Meg accomplish? How has she changed by the end?
Week 5	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Ch. 1-3	40 pages	Begin Bilbo's journey. Why is Bilbo reluctant to go? What qualities make someone a hero?
Week 6	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Ch. 4-6	45 pages	Trolls, goblins, and Gollum. How does Bilbo outsmart danger? How is he changing already?
Week 7	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Ch. 7-10	60 pages	Mirkwood and beyond. What does Bilbo's leadership in the forest say about his growth? How do the dwarves view him now?
Week 8	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Ch. 11-14	55 pages	Facing Smaug. What is the cost of greed? How do Bilbo's choices reflect his values?
Week 9	<i>The Hobbit</i>	Ch. 15-19 (Finish)	65 pages	War and homecoming. What has Bilbo gained and/or lost on his journey? Was the adventure worth it?

10th Grade Summer Reading: *Into the Wild, The Alchemist, and The Lord of the Flies*

Required

The Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Lord of the Flies is a novel that explores what happens when civilization breaks down among a group of British schoolboys stranded on an uninhabited island. After a plane crash during a wartime evacuation, the boys attempt to establish order and create their own society. However, their attempts at civilization gradually descend into savagery. By reading this story, students will be presented with an allegory about the thin veneer of civilization, humanity's inherent capacity for evil, the fragility of social order, and the importance of maintaining civilized behavior.

Choose ONE

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Into the Wild is a true story that follows Christopher McCandless, a young college graduate who abandons his comfortable life to pursue a solitary journey into the Alaskan wilderness. The story raises important questions about society, self-reliance, and the relationship between humans and nature, while also serving as a warning about the dangers of unpreparedness in the wild.

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

The Alchemist is a novel that follows the journey of Santiago, a young Andalusian shepherd who travels from Spain to Egypt in pursuit of his Personal Legend. The story combines elements of mysticism, wisdom, and personal growth as Santiago learns to read omens, trust in the universe's signs, and understand that the entire universe conspires to help those who follow their dreams. *The Alchemist* addresses the theme of journey vs. destination and explores topics like destiny, love, spirituality, and the importance of listening to one's heart.

The American Experience Summer Reading:

The Red Bandanna & The Namesake

The Red Bandanna by Tom Rinaldi

Welles Crowther became a symbol of extraordinary heroism during the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center. A 24-year-old equities trader working on the 104th floor of the South Tower, Crowther was distinguished by the red bandanna he always carried, a habit learned from his father. After the plane struck the tower, he helped guide and carry numerous people to safety, making multiple trips up and down the burning building. Beyond being an account of one of the watershed moments in American History, the novel addresses the themes of courage and sacrifice in the face of unimaginable circumstances.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

The Namesake is a novel that follows the story of the Ganguli family, specifically Gogol Ganguli, a first-generation American born to Bengali immigrant parents. The narrative explores his struggle with cultural identity as he navigates between his Bengali heritage and American upbringing. Through Gogol's journey of self-discovery, including his complicated relationship with his given name and his attempts to balance two distinct cultures, Lahiri addresses themes of cultural assimilation, family relationships, and the immigrant experience in America.

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading: *Into Thin Air, No Country for Old Men, and The Lost City of Z*

Required

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer

Into Thin Air is a non-fiction book which details the tragic events that occurred during the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, where eight climbers lost their lives during a severe storm. Krakauer, who was working as a journalist for *Outside* magazine, provides a firsthand account of the expedition as he was one of the climbers on the mountain that day. The story explores themes of ambition, survival, and the commercialization of mountain climbing, while also questioning the ethics of high-altitude mountaineering.

Choose ONE

No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy

No Country for Old Men is a contemporary Western thriller that follows the lives of three men in 1980s Texas. The story centers around Llewelyn Moss, who discovers a drug deal gone wrong and takes a briefcase containing \$2 million, which sets off a deadly chain of events. He's pursued by Anton Chigurh, a methodical and ruthless hitman. Meanwhile, Sheriff Ed Tom Bell, nearing retirement, attempts to protect Moss while grappling with the escalating violence in his once-peaceful region. The novel explores themes of fate, morality, and the changing nature of evil in modern America. *Please note that the level of violence in this story is graphic.*

The Lost City of Z by David Grann

The Lost City of Z is a non-fiction book that chronicles the true story of British explorer Percy Fawcett's quest to find an ancient lost civilization in the Amazon. In 1925, Fawcett, along with his son Jack and his son's friend Raleigh Rimell, ventured into the Amazon jungle in search of what he called "Z," a mysterious city he believed existed based on his research and previous expeditions. The expedition mysteriously disappeared, leading to decades of speculation about their fate. The book combines Fawcett's historical journey with the author's own modern-day investigation into the explorer's disappearance, while also examining the lure of exploration and the price of obsession.

Literature and Cultural Criticism Summer Reading: *The Stranger*, *The Kite Runner*, and *Rebecca*

Required

The Stranger by Albert Camus

Albert Camus's *The Stranger* follows Meursault, an emotionally detached French Algerian who becomes entangled in a series of events that lead to his imprisonment. Throughout the story, Meursault refuses to conform to society's expectations and reacts to events quite indifferently, setting the tone for his existential outlook on life. The novel explores themes of absurdism, alienation, and the conflict between individual truth and societal expectations, making it a cornerstone of existentialist literature.

Choose ONE

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner is a novel that follows the life of Amir, a young boy from Kabul, Afghanistan, and his complex relationship with Hassan, his servant's son. Set against the backdrop of tumultuous historical events, including the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy, the Soviet invasion, and the rise of the Taliban, the story explores themes of guilt, redemption, and father-son relationships. The title refers to the traditional Afghan sport of kite fighting, which serves as a central metaphor throughout the novel, representing both the joy of childhood and the weight of past decisions. The book addresses complex themes of social class, betrayal, and redemption while providing readers with insight into Afghan culture and history.

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

Rebecca is a Gothic romance novel published in 1938. The story follows an unnamed young woman who marries a wealthy widower, Maxim de Winter, and moves to his estate called Manderley. The protagonist finds herself living in the shadow of Maxim's first wife, Rebecca, who died mysteriously. As the story unfolds, dark secrets about Rebecca's death and true character emerge, leading to a dramatic conclusion. The novel explores themes of jealousy, identity, and the power of memory, while building tension throughout the narrative.

AP Literature and Composition Summer Reading: *Great Expectations, The Waste Land, and Crime and Punishment*

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Published in 1861, *Great Expectations* is a coming-of-age novel that follows the journey of Pip, an orphan boy in Victorian England. The story traces Pip's transformation from a humble blacksmith's apprentice to a gentleman. Featured on the AP Lit exam 20 times, the novel explores themes of social class, ambition, loyalty, and redemption. As Pip navigates his new life in London society, he learns valuable lessons about the true meaning of wealth, the importance of genuine friendship, and the dangers of false pride.

The Waste Land by T.S. Eliot

The Waste Land is a modernist poem that captures the disillusionment and fragmentation of post-World War I society. Written in five sections, the poem combines various voices, languages, and literary references to create a complex portrait of modern civilization in crisis. The poem explores spiritual emptiness, cultural decay, and the search for meaning in a broken world.

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Crime and Punishment, published in 1866 and appearing on the AP exam 17 times, is a psychological thriller that follows the story of Rodion Raskolnikov, a poor former student in St. Petersburg. The novel addresses deep moral and philosophical questions when Raskolnikov commits murder. Throughout the story, Raskolnikov struggles with guilt and psychological torment, while developing a complex relationship with Sonia, a young woman who helps him find redemption.

***Note** - All 3 are required for AP Literature and Composition