

Summer Reading 2025 - 8th Grade English/Honors English

May 29, 2025

Dear OG Families,

I am excited to tell you about the 2025 Summer Reading assignment! The goal of summer reading is to encourage and foster a love of reading while also avoiding the “summer slide”. Orange Grove wants to keep our students on track this summer so they will be as successful as possible in the next school year. All 8th grade English and Honors English students are required to read **one** book this summer from the attached list. This will count as two classwork grades for Quarter 1!

Summer Reading Assignment: Required

Students will choose one of the books from the attached list to read over the course of summer vacation. All of these titles are nominees for the 2025-2026 Junior Book Award which is sponsored by the South Carolina Association of School Librarians. Students will answer the questions provided by the teacher before the start of school and then use those answers to complete an assignment the first week of school. If students would like to read a second book from the list, they may take an AR test at school and those points will count towards their quarterly AR goal.

Feel free to email me at chandler_perryman@orangegrovecharter.com if you have any questions!

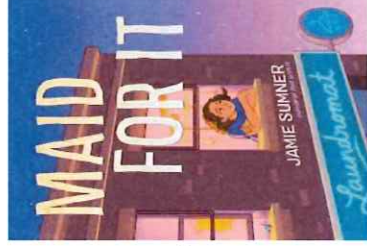
Chandler Perryman, M.Ed
Teacher Specialist/Reading Coach



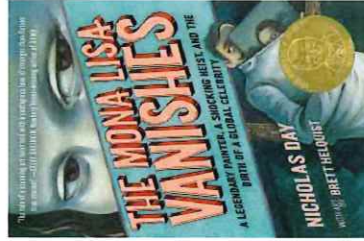
Louder Than Hunger
by John Schu

Even though he likes helping people, Jake, who avoids kids his own age, mirrors, and food, must help himself when the destructive voices inside get to be too much.

Maid For It
by Jamie Sumner



When her newly sober mom gets injured in a car accident and is unable to work, Franny is determined not to let addiction win again. She blackmails a school rival to help her clean houses to pay the bills and keep her family afloat.



The Mona Lisa Vanishes
by Nicholas Day

Transporting readers to turn-of-the-century Paris, they will bear witness to the heist of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre. Theft made it the most famous artwork in the world. This nonfiction thriller is shot through with stories of crime and celebrity, genius and beauty..

Parachute Kids
by Betty C. Tang

After their two-week family tour of Los Angeles, ten-year-old Feng Li Lin and her older brother and sister learn they will remain in California while their parents return to Taiwan, forcing them to navigate a new school, a new language, bullies, racism, and the pressures of running a household.



Remember Us
by Jacqueline Woodson

The summer before seventh grade, as the constant threat of housefires looms over her Brooklyn neighborhood, basketball-loving Sage is trying to figure out her place in her circle of friends, when a new kid named Freddy moves in.

Ruptured
by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz



When her mom has a ruptured brain aneurysm right after revealing a huge secret, 13-year-old Claire must navigate fear and grief with the weight of her mom's confession on her shoulders. Can she find a way to live with what she knows while dealing with her mom's prospects for recovery?

Something Like Home
by Andrea Beatriz Arango



Desperate to return home while staying with her aunt, Laura finds a puppy and decides that if she can train the puppy to become a therapy dog, she might be allowed to visit her parents - and then maybe things will go back to the way they should be.

Tagging Freedom
by Rhonda Roumani



Set in the early days of the Syrian Civil War, cousins Kareem and Samira living in Massachusetts navigate the growing conflict in Syria, new friendships, and the use of art to express themselves.

2025-26 South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominees



Students: To be eligible to vote for your favorite book, you must read at least three of the nominee titles. Voting takes place in February.

Media specialists should review titles and add them to their collection only if the title meets the criteria established by District Board Policy and Media Center Policy & Procedures guidelines.

Book summaries and images courtesy of Novelist Plus database: www.scdiscus.org unless otherwise noted.

South Carolina Association of School Librarians, P.O. Box 2442, Columbia, SC 29202

<http://scasl.net/awards/book-awards>

102 Days of Lying About Lauren

by Maura Joiner

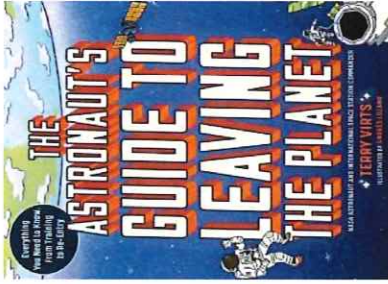
After being abandoned by her mother in a most unusual place, a defiant heroine sticks to her plan for staying hidden—even though getting caught could mean saving her life.



The Astronaut's Guide to Leaving the Planet

by Terry Virts

A kid's guide to leaving Earth from someone who's done it! Former astronaut Terry Virts guides readers through the practical elements of becoming an astronaut, along with the wonders (and challenges!) of space travel.



Clementine

by Ann Hood

Two years after her sister's tragic death, fourteen-year-old Clementine still struggles with overwhelming guilt and grief and feels disconnected from the world around her..



Curlfriends

by Sharee Miller

Starting a new middle school, Charlie learns that being her true self is the best way to make lasting friendships when she meets the Curlfriends, a group of Black girls who couldn't be more different from each other.



Eb & Flow

by Kelly J. Baptist

In this emotional novel-in-verse, tweens De'Kari and Ebony are suspended after a fight for ten days, during which they learn to see the world with a fresh perspective.



The Fire, The Water, and Maudie McGinn

by Sally J. Pla

Follows thirteen-year-old neurodivergent Maudie during an eventful summer in California with her father, where she struggles with whether to share a terrible secret about life with her mom and stepdad.



Half Moon Summer

by Elaine Vickers

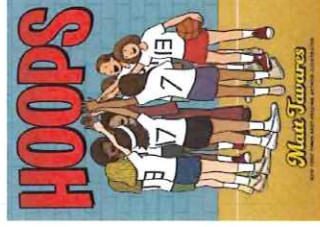
Deciding to spend their entire summer training for a half-marathon, 12-year-olds Drew and Mia, who have very different reasons for running, discover they have one crucial thing in common: hope for the future, for their families, and for each other.



Hoops

by Matt Tavares

Inspired by a true story, this graphic novel about the ongoing battle of women striving for equality in sports follows the Wilkins Regional High School girls' basketball team in 1975 Indiana, as they push through to improbable victory after improbable victory despite their disadvantages.



It's Boba Time For Pearl Li

by Nicole Chen

To save her favorite tea shop from closing, a big-hearted Taiwanese American girl with a passion for crochet decides to sell her amigurumi creations to raise money for the shop, which becomes more complicated than she could have ever imagined.



Land of Broken Promises

by Jane Kuo

After a rocky first year, Anna's family have settled into life in California—their small restaurant is even turning a profit. Then her parents make a shattering discovery: their visas have expired. Anna's world is quickly overwhelmed by unfamiliar words like "undocumented" and "inequality."



Lasagna Means I Love You

by Kate O'Shaughnessy

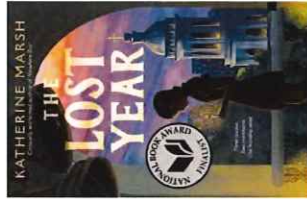
When 11-year-old foster kid Mia finds a handmade cookbook filled with someone else's family recipes she collects the stories behind them and builds a website to share them, secretly hoping a long-lost relative will find her and give her a family recipe all her own



The Lost Year

by Katherine Marsh

When his great-grandmother comes to stay with them during the pandemic, 13-year-old Matthew discovers a photo in her belongings that reveals a life-shattering family secret, in this brilliant survival story set in alternating timelines that connects the present day to 1930s Soviet Ukraine.



2025 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Name:

Date:

Directions: Read your choice of one of the selected SC Jr. Book Award nominees shown on the attached page. Then, answer all of the questions in this document. You will use these answers in an assignment during the first week of school.

1. What is the title of your book?
2. Who is the author of the book?
3. Who is the protagonist of the book? Describe this person in as much detail as possible.
4. What is the main conflict in the story? Please describe the conflict in detail.
5. How is the conflict in the story resolved?

6. Explain the plot of the story in at least 5 detailed sentences.

7. What is the theme, or life lesson, in the story? Write a detailed explanation of the main theme of the story.

8. Would you recommend this book to other readers? Please write at least 3 detailed sentences explaining your recommendation.