

Strath Haven Middle School Summer Reading 2025

Middle school students should maintain their reading lives over the summer months. We offer a list of books organized alphabetically by title, with genre. We recommend students explore and read with consideration of both interest and reading level. With parent guidance, students may choose any book from the list to use for their summer reading.

Due Date:

Students will engage in learning activities related to their summer reading in the first two weeks of school.

To Our Middle School Students,
Happy reading! We absolutely cannot wait to meet you!



With enthusiasm,
Your SHMS Language Arts Teachers

Suggestions for choosing a summer reading book that is perfect for you!

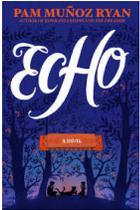
- ★ **Consider Genre** - Think about books you have enjoyed in the past. Is there a certain genre you enjoy reading the most? Would you like to read more books of that style? If so, start by looking at books offered in that genre.
- ★ **Consider Author** - Is there a certain author whose writing you have enjoyed? Are any of their other books on the list?
- ★ **Stay Open-Minded** - Is there a book that you might not usually select, but that someone has recommended or that has caught your attention? Try it! You may always switch if the book does not work for you.
- ★ **Select a “Just right” book**- we encourage readers to choose books by **interest**, because if you are interested in a text, you will be more likely to do the work to understand the story and its meaning. However, be mindful if a text is too difficult for you to understand. Be willing to put it down and say, “I’ll try this one again in a few months!” Your teachers will support you with this work throughout the school year

Genre Descriptions

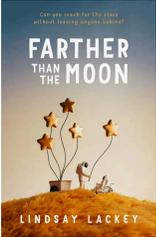
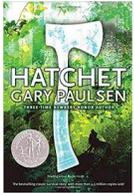
<p>ADVENTURE <i>Danger. Risk. Excitement. In this wide-ranging genre, you will find numerous opportunities to join characters on their great adventures. Follow along and keep the pages turning; you never know what is coming next!</i></p>	<p>Dystopian & Science Fiction <i>Take a trip to a futuristic, imagined world in which government control dictates the choices characters can make and the actions characters can take. Grim. Dark. Hopeless. Join characters on an adventure to find their voice, hope, and strength in worlds where silence is preferred.</i></p>	<p>Fantasy <i>Looking to visit a universe where myth and magic are accepted as the truth? You will venture out of our world to a new and magical location where adventure awaits. Join the characters on unpredictable journeys through unpredictable lands!</i></p>
<p>Historical Fiction/Drama <i>Jump into the literary time machine and transport yourself to a historical setting. On your adventure, find authentic characters who are waiting to share their stories and show you a time, a place distinct, but possibly connected to your current life.</i></p>	<p>Nonfiction <i>Biographies, memoirs, research, history, science, current events, role models...</i> <i>Nonfiction offers opportunities for exploration into an unlimited number of topics. Targeting a variety of interests and styles, nonfiction will leave you amazed, informed, and even more curious about your world.</i></p>	<p>Realistic Fiction <i>Spend some time with realistic fiction and maybe find a new friend. Or perhaps learn more about yourself through the realistic stories of characters. Or perhaps step into the characters’ shoes and understand their perspectives, even though they differ from yours. Join the characters living through and learning from relatable experiences.</i></p>

Strath Haven Middle School Language Arts Book Options

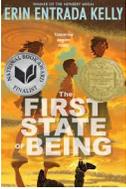
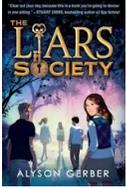
Inspired by the 2025-20226 Mount Laurel Book Award Nomination List sponsored by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

Book Title & Author & Publication Year	Description	Genre & Notes
<p><i>A Night Divided</i> Jennifer Nielsen Published in 2015</p> 	<p>With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. One day, on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Gerta concludes that her father wants her and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p><i>A Rover's Story</i> Jasmine Warga Published in 2024</p> 	<p>Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name. Res was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop human-like feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming. Human emotions or not, launch day comes, and Res blasts off to Mars, accompanied by a friendly drone helicopter named Fly.. As he navigates Mars's difficult landscape, Res is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. As millions of people back on Earth follow his progress, will Res have the determination, courage, and resilience to succeed...and survive?</p>	<p>Science Fiction</p>
<p><i>And Then, Boom!</i> Lisa Fipps Published in 2024</p> 	<p>Joe Oak knows life can change in a second—And then, boom. One day he's living with his grandma, the next day they're out of a home. Just when things start looking up, Joe's suddenly on his own, trying to stay hidden so he doesn't end up in foster care. With no money, no food, and no one to turn to, he's almost ready to give up... And then—boom. A scrawny little dog and her puppies show up. A tornado hits. And somehow, when everything seems lost, Joe's story takes a turn he never saw coming. This is a story about being brave, finding help in unexpected places, and what it really means to be a hero.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i></p>
<p><i>Echo</i> Pam Muñoz Ryan Published in 2015</p> 	<p>Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.</p> <p>Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, pulled by the invisible thread of destiny, their suspenseful solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo.</p>	<p>Fantasy Historical Fiction</p>

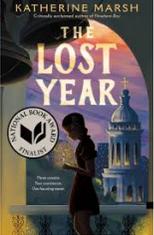
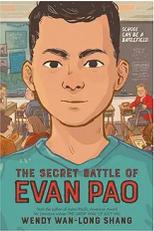
Please Note: As children mature, book content does as well. It is recommended that parents/guardians review student book choices.

<p><i>Farther Than the Moon</i> Lindsay Lackey Published in 2025</p> 	<p>All 13-year-old Houston Stewart wants is to be an astronaut—and to take his little brother, Robbie, with him. When Houston gets into an elite space camp, it feels like his dream is coming true. But Robbie, who has cerebral palsy and epilepsy, has to stay home. At camp, Houston makes new friends, faces big challenges, and discovers a surprising family secret. Still, he can't stop thinking about the dream he and Robbie share. So, Houston sets out on a bold new mission—to make space a place for <i>everyone</i>, no matter what.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i></p>
<p><i>Fast Pitch</i> Nic Stone Published in 2023</p> 	<p>Shenice Lockwood is determined to lead her all-Black girls' softball team to victory, but when a family mystery surfaces, everything starts to unravel. Shenice learns that her great-grandfather was wrongfully accused of a crime, and now it's up to her to uncover the truth and clear his name. Balancing softball practice, school, and her search for answers isn't easy, especially when the pressure to win the championship intensifies. As Shenice digs deeper into her family's history, she discovers the power of standing up for justice, the importance of teamwork, and what it really means to fight for what's right.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i></p>
<p><i>Hatchet</i> Gary Paulsen Published in 2006</p> 	<p>Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is traveling by single-engine plane to visit his father for the first time since his parents' divorce. When the plane crashes, killing the pilot, the sole survivor is Brian. He is alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered windbreaker and a hatchet. Fearful, Brian must fight for survival until he can find a way home.</p>	<p>ADVENTURE Series Book!</p>
<p><i>Kyra, Just For Today</i> Sara Zarr Published in 2024</p> 	<p>Kyra's life feels out of control, but she's determined to make a change, starting just for today. After a tough year, she's staying with her dad and trying to figure out who she really is. She decides to take things one day at a time, facing challenges, making new friends, and learning to trust herself again. But the more she works on herself, the more she realizes that sometimes, the hardest part of moving forward is letting go of the past.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i></p>
<p><i>Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy</i> Angie Thomas Published in 2023</p> 	<p>It's not easy being a Remarkable in the Unremarkable world. Some things are cool—like getting a pet hellhound for your twelfth birthday. Others, not so much—like not being trusted to learn magic because you might use it to take revenge on an annoying neighbor. All Nic Blake wants is to be a powerful Manifestor like her dad. But before she has a chance to convince him to teach her the gift, a series of shocking revelations and terrifying events launch Nic and two friends on a hunt for a powerful magic tool she's never heard of.</p>	<p><i>Fantasy</i></p>

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<p>Olivetti Allie Millington Published in 2025</p> 	<p>Olivetti, a forgotten typewriter, feels abandoned by the Brindle family, especially 12-year-old Ernest, who prefers his Oxford dictionaries over the family's technology. When Beatrice, Ernest's mom, drops Olivetti at a pawn shop and disappears, the typewriter breaks his code and reveals her memories to Ernest. Together, they search San Francisco for Beatrice, uncovering hidden truths and confronting the family's past. Through their journey, they seek belonging and healing.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction/ Fantasy</i></p>
<p>Parachute Kids Betty Tang Published in 2023</p> 	<p>Feng-Li can't wait to discover America with her family! But after an action-packed vacation, her parents deliver shocking news: They are returning to Taiwan and leaving Feng-Li and her older siblings in California <i>on their own</i>. Suddenly, the three kids must fend for themselves in a strange new world--<i>and get along</i>. Starting a new school, learning a new language, and trying to make new friends while managing a household is hard enough, but Bro and Sis's constant bickering makes everything worse. Thankfully, there are some hilarious moments to balance the stress and loneliness. But as tensions escalate--and all three kids get tangled in a web of bad choices--can Feng-Li keep her family together?</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction Graphic Novel</i></p>
<p>The First State of Being Erin Kelly Published in 2024</p> 	<p>In <i>The First State of Being</i>, twelve-year-old Michael Rosario's life changes when he meets Ridge, a mysterious boy from the future. Set in 1999, Michael's world revolves around his crush on his babysitter, Gibby, and worries about Y2K. But when Ridge shows up, confident and curious about the '90s, Michael learns he's the first time traveler. As Ridge shares a book about the future, Michael becomes determined to get his hands on it, no matter the cost. This story is about family, friendship, trust, and figuring out what's really important.</p>	<p>Science Fiction</p>
<p>The Girl Who Drank the Moon Kelly Barnhill Published in</p> 	<p>Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl as her own. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch, creating trouble that touches the whole forest.</p>	<p>Fantasy</p>
<p>The Liars Society Alyson Gerber Published in 2024</p> 	<p>Weatherby Walker, a scholarship student at the prestigious Boston School, is eager to connect with her estranged father and make real friends. However, she harbors a secret that could jeopardize her new life. Jack Hunt, from a wealthy legacy family, struggles with mediocrity and seeks to prove himself to his influential father. Both are drawn into a high-stakes game to solve the mystery of stolen funds for a school trip to a private island. Winning could grant them entry into the elite secret society, Last Heir, but losing could cost them everything.</p>	<p>Mystery Series</p>

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<p><i>The Lost Year</i> Katherine Marsh Published in 2023</p> 	<p>"The Lost Year" by Katherine Marsh is a historical fiction novel that intertwines the present with the past, exploring the Holodomor (the Ukrainian famine of the 1930s) through the eyes of 13-year-old Matthew. During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Matthew, his mother, and his 100-year-old great-grandmother, GG, are stuck at home, leading Matthew to uncover a family secret and learn about GG's harrowing experiences during the Holodomor.</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p><i>The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity</i> Nicholas Day Published in 2023</p> 	<p>On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard burst into the office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, <i>La Joconde, c'est partie!</i> The <i>Mona Lisa</i>, she's gone! No one knew who was behind the heist. Travel back to an extraordinary period of revolutionary change: turn-of-the-century Paris. Walk its backstreets. Meet the infamous thieves—and detectives—of the era. And then slip back further in time and follow Leonardo da Vinci, painter of the <i>Mona Lisa</i>, through his dazzling, wondrously weird life. Discover the secret at the heart of the <i>Mona Lisa</i>—the most famous painting in the world should never have existed at all.</p> <p>Here is a middle-grade nonfiction, with black-and-white illustrations by Brett Helquist throughout, written at the pace of a thriller, shot through with stories of crime and celebrity, genius and beauty.</p>	<p>Narrative Nonfiction</p>
<p><i>The Night War</i> Kimberly Bradley Brubaker Published in 2025</p> 	<p>In 1942 France, twelve-year-old Miri, a Jewish girl, escapes a Nazi roundup and hides in a village near the Château de Chenonceau. Disguised as a Catholic at a boarding school, she's given a dangerous mission that could lead to her freedom—and possibly to her missing parents. <i>The Night War</i> is a powerful story of courage, friendship, and survival during World War II.</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p><i>The Secret Battle of Evan Pao</i> Wendy Shang Published in 2022</p> 	<p>A fresh start. That's all Evan Pao wants as he, along with his mother and sister, flees from California to Haddington, Virginia, hoping to keep his father's notoriety a secret. But Haddington is a southern town steeped in tradition, and moving to a town immersed in the past has its own price. Although Evan quickly makes friends, one boy, Brady Griggs, seems determined to make sure that, as a Chinese American, Evan feels that he does not belong. When Evan finds a unique way to make himself part of the school's annual Civil War celebration, the reaction is swift and violent. As all of his choices at home and at school collide, Evan must decide whether he will react with the same cruelty shown to him or choose a different path. Evan Pao must fight as he struggles to figure out how he fits into this country's past and how he will shape its future.</p>	<p><i>Realistic Fiction</i></p>

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