



# 2026 Summer Reading

Grades 6-8

This summer, JCS challenges you to keep reading. As for us, our summer is fully **booked!**

Summer reading is particularly important as it helps prevent the "summer slide," fosters a love of reading, and prepares students for academic success in the upcoming school year by improving their literacy skills and vocabulary. Stepping into a good book can help preteens and teens develop their own identities and sense of self, as they relate to characters and explore their own thoughts and feelings through reading. Overall, literature and summer reading can have a profound impact, opening new horizons and opportunities for personal and academic growth.



## **REQUIRED** Summer Reading -

- **REQUIRED for all JCS Middle School students:** Read a minimum of 20 hours over the summer. This is approximately 15-20 minutes per day reading books of your choosing.
- **IMPORTANT:** Track your participation by completing the attached reading log and turning it in to your English teacher the first week of school for a small formative grade and an opportunity to win prizes!
- **Read whatever you wish.** You may read independently, OR you may read with others, especially children!

So, what is the **CHALLENGE??**

- **CHALLENGE:** Students who read 21+ hours will compete for prizes in August. The more you read, the better your chances!

## JCS Middle School Suggested Reading List

Unsure of where to begin? Check out our **suggested** reading list compiled by our Middle School English Teachers! Listed books are NOT mandatory but offer a wide range of literary classics and non-fiction options. We ask that parents continue to screen their child's digital/print media consumption and make the final decision on all selections. Happy Reading!

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Swindel by Gordan Korman
- The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
- Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- Where the Red Fern Grown by Wilson Rawls
- The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket
- Buddy by M.H. Herlong
- Fever 1973 by Laurie Anderson
- Al Capone Does my Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko
- The Candymakers by Wendy Mass
- When You Trap a Tiger by Tea Keller (*recommended for Honors*)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Prince Caspian by C.S. Lewis
- Nate Saint: On a Wing and a Prayer by Janet and Geoff Benge
- The Prince and the Pauper by Mark Twain
- The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
- The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen
- One Hundred and One Dalmatians by Dodie Smith
- Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
- Refugee by Alan Gratz (*recommended for Honors*)

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Call of the Wild by Jack London
- Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
- The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
- The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- You Were Made to Make a Difference by Max Lucado
- I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
- Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
- Eragon by Christopher Paolini
- Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows by Ryan Calejo (*recommended for Honors*)

REQUIRED: 20 HOURS - CHALLENGE GOAL: 21+ HOURS

**TURN THIS READING LOG IN ELECTRONICALLY ON CANVAS OR HARDCOPY TO YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL. THIS IS A FORMATIVE GRADE!**