



MD Summer Reading, 2026 (Rising 6-8 graders)

Over the summer, students will read **two** books that may be paired with audio versions for reading and comprehension support. We encourage students and parents to take an active role while reading each novel. Asking questions, summarizing chapters, discussing details, creating “memory drawings,” and predicting what might happen next can increase understanding and engagement. Assignments are **due on the first day of school**, either hand-written or typed. These books are available on your child’s Learning Ally account.

1. Book One: Grade Level Novel

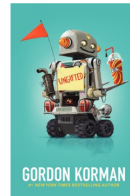
- a. Rising 6th: Stuart Little by E.B. White (ISBN-13 9780064400565)
- b. Rising 7th: The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall (ISBN-13: 9780375831430)
- c. Rising 8th: The Giver by Lois Lowry (ISBN-13: 9780440237686)

** Assignment: Book Review (details on pages 2-3) **

2. Book Two: The Middle School Big Read

- a. Book: Ungifted by Gordon Korman (ISBN13: 9780061742668)

** Assignment: One Pager (details on pages 4-6) **



Executive Function Tip: Help your child get organized, avoid last minute stress, & support project completion. **Set due dates** on a printed calendar that is visible! (*example below*)

Book One Schedule	Book Two Schedule
☐ June 1st - Begin reading ☐ June 15 - Finish reading ☐ June 16 - Review rubric & make a plan ☐ June 30 - Finish assignment	☐ July 1st - Begin reading ☐ July 15 - Finish reading ☐ July 16 - Review rubric & make a plan ☐ July 30 - Finish assignment

All the Best, Melissa Jozefov, Middle Division Director

*The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. Dr. Seuss*

Book One - Grade Level Novel

3- Paragraph Book Review

Directions: Type or write a three paragraph book review. The top line should include your name, the book title & author, and the date. Use the graphic organizer (page 3) to develop your ideas. You may want to print a copy of page 3 for each paragraph.

Grade Level Book Review Rubric	Points possible	Score
Header: Name, title of book, author's name, and date	5	
Review includes 3 paragraphs in paragraph form.	5	
Book review includes the main events of the story, without giving away the ending.	15	
Paragraph 1: Introduce the book. Include the title, author, when it was written, setting, main characters, etc. *Includes topic sentence, 2-3 supporting, and one concluding sentence.	20	
Paragraph 2: Summarize the book. Tell about the book without giving away the ending. *Includes topic sentence, 2-3 supporting, and one concluding sentence.	20	
Paragraph 3: Describe your favorite part or a connection you made to the book. Give your recommendation. Should people read the book? Who would like it? *Includes topic sentence, 2-3 supporting, and one concluding sentence.	20	
Student's opinion of the book is clear, along with what the audience would enjoy about the book.	10	
Fewer than 3 errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling	5	
TOTAL Project Points		

5-Sentence Paragraph Organizer

Topic Sentence	
Support 1	➤ _____
Support 2 -	➤ _____
Support 3 -	➤ _____
Conclusion Sentence (Restates topic sentence in different way)	

Book Two - Ungifted One Pager

Directions: Using the template on page 5, create a one-page book summary. You will include a border with adjectives (describing words) about the novel. You may neatly hand-write **or** type, print, and glue to the page. **Note:** You may create this in a digital format as long as it includes all requirements. The final page needs to be glued to a piece of construction paper to create a clean border image.

Section 1: List the title & author, Main characters, Setting, and Problem (conflict).	Section 2: Display your reaction to a major situation in the novel (include the situation and how you felt about it).
Section 3: Write a statement telling your overall feelings about the story. Begin your statement with "I believe..."	
Section 4: Create 2 visual images that relate to the story (not the book cover)	Section 5: If you could be one character in the story, which would you choose? Write: 1) character name, 2) why you chose this one, and 3) five character traits.

Project Rubric	Points possible	Score
Student's full name (on the back of the paper)	5	
Border using descriptive words/adjectives (minimum of 10)	10	
Section 1: 1. Title & author (5 points) 2. Main character(s) & secondary characters (5 points) 3. Main setting (5 points) 4. Problem (conflict) in the novel (5 points)	20	
Section 2: Reaction to one situation in the novel, with brief description of the situation	20	
Section 3: "I believe..." statement about the novel	10	
Section 4: Two visual images relating to the novel	10	
Section 5: Character with at least 5 character traits listed	10	
The project is creative and neat.	10	
Less than 3 errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling	5	

Total Project grade

Examples for Book Two Assignment



