



WESTLAKE ACADEMY

6th-12th Grade Summer Reading 2026-2027

Reading is central to success in MYP and DP classrooms. Over the summer and throughout the school year, students are expected to read consistently, critically, and independently in order to develop the skills necessary for rigorous analysis and thoughtful communication.

As students move through the IB programmes, the reading expectations increase in both quantity and complexity. Therefore, students should read on a daily basis in order to build the reading stamina necessary to meet these demands.

6TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
	<u>Please read the following:</u>	
Novel in Verse	<i>And Then Boom</i> by Lisa Fipps	Students should read <i>And Then Boom</i> and at least one of the five optional novels for their summer reading and be prepared to discuss and complete creative projects about the reading upon the start of school in August. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Bassett at abassett@westlakeacademy.org . (You will need your own physical copies of your books.)
	<u>plus Choose ONE of the following:</u>	
Realistic Fiction	<i>The Fourth Stall (Part 1)</i> by Chris Rylander	
Graphic Novel	<i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft	
Realistic Fiction	<i>Pax</i> by Sara Pennypacker	
Historical Fiction	<i>The War That Saved My Life</i> by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	
Classic Fiction	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i> by L. Frank Baum	

7TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
	<u>Please read the following:</u>	
Fiction (Modern Classic/Realistic)	<i>Souder</i> by William Armstrong	Students should choose at least TWO of the six novels for their summer reading and be prepared to discuss and complete an assignment about the reading at the start of school in August. (Please bring your copies of each book you read to class.) If you have any questions, please email Ms. O'Dell at jodell@westlakeacademy.org . <i>Do you want more summer reading fun? Check out titles from these resources:</i> 2026 The Texas Lone Star List or 2026 Maverick Reading List
	<u>PLUS choose one of the following:</u>	
Fiction (Classic/Fantasy)	<i>The Hobbit</i> by J.R.R. Tolkien (novel or graphic novel)	
Fiction (Modern/Adventure)	<i>Peak</i> : by Roland Smith	
Fiction (Modern Classic/Realistic)	<i>Walk Two Moons</i> by Sharon Creech	
Fiction		

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(Modern Classic/Historic)	<i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry	The Texas Lone Star and Maverick reading lists are curated by the Texas Library Association.
Fiction (Graphic Novel)	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> by Natalie Babbitt, adapted and illustrated by K. Woodman-Maynard	

8TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
Fiction (Graphic Novel/ Historical)	<u>Please read the following:</u> <i>White Bird</i> by R.J. Palacio	Students should choose at least TWO of the six novels for their summer reading and be prepared to discuss and complete an assignment about the reading at the start of school in August. (Please bring your copies of each book you read to class.)
Fiction (Classic/Adventure)	<u>PLUS choose one of the following:</u> <i>Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London	
Fiction (Historic/ Realistic)	<i>A Place to Hang the Moon</i> by Kate Albus	If you have any questions, please email Ms. O'Dell at jodell@westlakeacademy.org . <i>Do you want more summer reading fun? Check out titles from these resources:</i> 2026 The Texas Lone Star List or 2026 Maverick Reading List
Fiction (Mystery/Series)	<i>A Royal Conundrum (The Misfits)</i> by Lisa Yee	
Fiction (Realistic meets /Fantasy)	<i>The Truth About Horses</i> by Christy Cashman	
Nonfiction	<i>Anne Frank: A Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank	The Texas Lone Star and Maverick reading lists are curated by the Texas Library Association.

9TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
Various	Please read the following: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury PLUS Choose any book that interests you. Here are some great resources for recommendations: The 2026 Texas Lone Star and 2026 Maverick Reading List . The Texas Lone Star and Maverick reading lists are curated by the Texas Library Association. **You will need a copy of <i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> by Thomas C. Foster (revised edition) at the beginning of school.	If you need assistance choosing a book or have questions email Ms. Reid at jreid@westlakeacademy.org .

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10TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
Fiction	For your summer reading text, please read the following: <i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> by Trevor Noah	In preparation for the start of sophomore year, students will read: (1) <i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i> and (2) a book of choice. Students will complete writing assignments on all books during the first week of school. Specific instructions will be given on the first day of classes.
Various	PLUS Choose any book that interests you. The TAYSHAS , Maverick (for 6-12), and the Printz Award lists are great places to find noteworthy new books that have come out in the last year. **You will need a copy of <i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> by Thomas C. Foster (revised edition) at the beginning of school.	If you need assistance choosing a book or have questions, please email Ms. Reid at jreid@westlakeacademy.org or Mrs. Watson at twatson@westlakeacademy.org .

11TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
Nonfiction	For your summer reading text, please read the following: <i>Glass Castle</i> by Jeannette Walls PLUS Any book of your choice.	Students will read the assigned texts over the summer in preparation for the start of junior year. Students will complete writing assignments during the first week of school. Specific instructions will be given on the first day of classes. You will need your own physical copy of the text. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Watson at twatson@westlakeacademy.org .

12TH GRADE REQUIRED TEXTS

Genre	Title	Comments
Fiction	You will have one required text. Please read the nonfiction novel <i>In Cold Blood</i> by Truman Capote.	Students will read the assigned text over the summer in preparation for the start of senior year. Students will complete assignments on this text during the first week of school. Specific instructions will be given on the first day of classes. You will need your own physical copy of the required text. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Harrell at aharrell@westlakeacademy.org .

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MORE SUMMER READING RESOURCES

Yes, we expect you to read the required titles for your grade level, but we hope these are not the only books you read this summer! Make sure to check out your local library and bookstores to find additional books for you to enjoy this summer.

If you need help finding a great book or accessing the resources below, email Mrs. Estrada (kestrada@westlakeacademy.org).

WESTLAKE ACADEMY SORA EBOOK COLLECTION

From classics to new releases, our Westlake Academy Overdrive digital library has hundreds of titles to choose from! "Getting ebooks and audiobooks from your school is quick and easy with Sora. Just sign in with your school account, then borrow and open books with one tap." Learn more or download the app at <https://www.overdrive.com/>.

2026 Lone Star Reading List



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