



2026 Gulf Shores Middle School Summer Reading Assignment **Mandatory Assignment for ALL Students entering grades 6th-7th-8th.**

Choose **one** of the following novels to read:



Option 1: ***The Trouble with Heros* by Kate Messer** (Mountain adventure, written in verse, dog sidekick)



Option 2: ***The Right Call* by Tommy Greenwald** (Baseball, multi-media format, reluctant readers)



Option 3: ***Deep Water* by Watt Key** (Local Author, set off the coast of Gulf Shores, Alabama, Scuba)



Option 4: ***The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan** (Fantasy, Greek Mythology, Adventure)

When students return to school...

They will be given a 20-question multiple-choice test on the book they chose to read. This will be a formative 20-point grade.

Students are encouraged to...

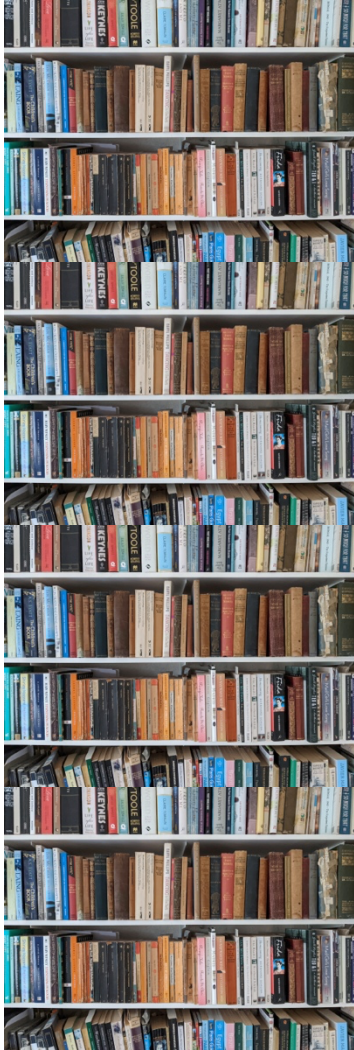
Read at least 20 minutes each day. Feel free to check out the other book options once you finish the required one. Take a trip to a local bookstore or our local library. Our public libraries will be holding events throughout the summer for all age groups.



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

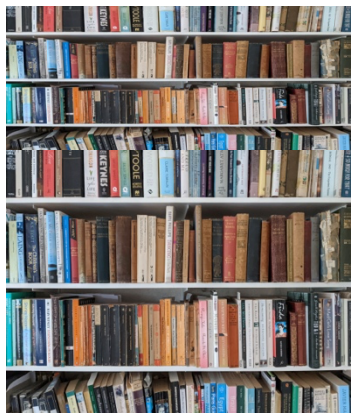
Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day

1,620 minutes of reading this summer.
283,500 words



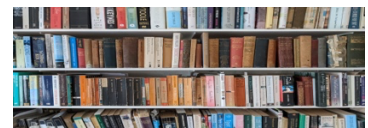
Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day

405 minutes of reading this summer.
71,875 words



Student "C" reads 1 minute each day

81 minutes of reading this summer.
14,000 words



- By the end of summer, Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 4 whole school days. Student "B" will have read less than 1 school day. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school... and in life?
- Summer reading will prevent the "summer slide", build stamina and focus, expand vocabulary, improve comprehension and critical thinking, increase confidence, support writing skills, and reduce academic stress in the fall.