



2026–27 Middle School Required Summer Reading

Summer is a wonderful time to relax and engage with stories that you do not have time to read during a busy school year. Reading is also crucial for your continued academic success and personal enrichment. While we hope you become voracious readers this summer, we request that you read at least two books. Specific assignments for each grade level are detailed on this page.

For the open-ended student-choice books assigned for 7th and 8th grades, you may choose any fiction or nonfiction titles you have not read before. If you would like suggestions, see link below or [visit the Becker Library tile in MySSES](#) for the fantastic resources the St. Stephen's librarians have created with Middle School students in mind. You are always welcome to email our librarians for recommendations.

Librarian: Ms. Williams | bwilliams@sstx.org

[View Middle School recommended reading from Becker Library](#)

Summer Reading Advice

- Find a comfortable spot and, when possible, read a traditional book instead of an electronic version.
- Read for pleasure and do not worry about annotating!
- If you have already read a required text, please read it again; your experience will be different the second time.
- Please read unabridged books. You may listen to audiobooks as long as you also read the text as you listen.

6th Grade Summer Reading

Please choose one of the following new-to-you novels:

- *Restart* by Gordon Korman
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

These required books will be the basis for discussion and comparison throughout the school year. Read them carefully and arrive ready for lively discussions! You may check out the books from the public library or purchase your own copies.

7th Grade Summer Reading

Please read two books this summer; the title below and one new-to-you book of your choice.

- *Poetry Speaks Who I Am*, edited by Elise Paschen (any standard, printed edition — not an ebook)

If you are new to St. Stephen's, we highly recommend you read two books taught in our 6th-grade English curriculum: *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

8th Grade Summer Reading

Please read two books this summer:

- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (any standard, printed edition—not an ebook)
- One book of the student's choice