2026 Middle School Summer Reading Recommendations

Middle School Grades 6-8

All rising sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are encouraged to read one book from the grade-level list provided below.

These books offer a variety of perspectives and are grade-level appropriate. Reading one of these selections is a meaningful way for students to engage with literature over the summer, keep their reading lives active, and prepare for the next school year.

6th Grade

Title	Author
Hello, Universe	Erin Entrada Kelly
King of Shadows	Susan Cooper
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen
The Crossover	Kwame Alexander
Heart of a Samurai	Margi Preus
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH	Robert C. O'Brien
Peak	Roland Smith
The Seer of Shadows	Avi
Throwing Heat	Fred Bowen
Powerless	Matthew Cody
The London Eye Mystery	Siobhan Dowd
Bound	Donna Jo Napoli
How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush	Tod Olson
Off to Be the Wizard	Scott Meyer
The City of Ember	Jeanne DuPrau
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson
The Black Stallion	Walter Farley
Tracking Trash	Loree Griffin Burns
Hana's Suitcase	Karen Levine
Ancient China	Arthur Cotterell
Stranger on the Silk Road: A Story of Ancient China	Jessica Gunderson
Legacies from Ancient Rome	Anita Ganeri
Accidental Archaeologists	Sarah Albee
Lincoln's Grave Robbers	Steve Sheinkin
All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team	Christina Soontornvat
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)	Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick

7th Grade

Title	Author
The Storyteller	Brandon Hobson
Wonder (Illustrated Edition)	R. J. Palacio
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor
Divergent	Veronica Roth
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson
Things Not Seen	Andrew Clements
The Call of the Wild	Jack London
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
Ender's Game	Orson Scott Card
The Three Musketeers	Alexandre Dumas
The Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkien
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green
Paper Towns	John Green
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams
The Door in the Wall	Marguerite de Angeli
The Kite Rider	Geraldine McCaughrean
Killing Mr. Griffin	Lois Duncan
A Long Walk to Water	Linda Sue Park
A Thousand Beginnings and Endings	edited by Ellen Oh and Elsie Chapman
Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens	edited by Marieke Nijkamp
Snow Falling in Spring	Moying Li
How Rome Fell: Death of a Superpower	Adrian Goldsworthy
The Life of the Prophet Muhammad	Leila Azzam and Aisha Gouverneur
Aztecs and Maya: What Life Was Like for Ancient Civilizations in Central America	Fiona Macdonald
Machu Picchu: The Story of the Amazing Incas and Their City in the Clouds	Elizabeth Mann
The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery	Steve Sheinkin
The President Has Been Shot!: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy	James L. Swanson
Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution	Ji-li Jiang
Silent Spring	Rachel Carson

8th Grade

Title	Author
No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits	Jordan Romero with Linda LeBlanc
When My Name Was Keoko	Linda Sue Park
The Boy at the Top of the Mountain	John Boyne
The Last Train to London	Meg Waite Clayton
Million-Dollar Throw	Mike Lupica
A Mango-Shaped Space	Wendy Mass
The Count of Monte Cristo	Alexandre Dumas
The Benefits of Being an Octopus	Ann Braden
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	Avi
Jurassic Park	Michael Crichton
Homecoming	Cynthia Voigt
The Time Machine	H. G. Wells
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea	Jules Verne
Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food	Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson
Miracle on the Hudson: The Extraordinary Real-Life Story Behind Flight 1549, by the Survivors	The Survivors of Flight 1549 with William Prochnau and Laura Parker
Chasing Lincoln's Killer: The Search for John Wilkes Booth	James L. Swanson
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, illustrated by Anna Hymas
Farewell to Manzanar	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston
Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books	Gary Paulsen
Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem	Rosalyn Schanzer
The Boys in the Boat	Daniel James Brown