



**Sayreville Middle School
Department of English Language Arts**

Summer Reading Program for
Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th graders



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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The goal of the Sayreville Middle School summer reading program is to encourage independent practice of reading skills and to foster a lifelong love of reading for our students. It is with this in mind that we present our program for 2026.

This packet provides information about summer reading for all students entering grades 6-8 along with specific assignments for students registered for advanced-level ELA classes (01 level) in grades 7 and 8. When locating their assignment, students are to consider the English class they will be taking in the fall of 2026 and complete the assignment for their grade and level according to their schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. Please read the documents carefully, and be aware that the information and assignments may continue on multiple pages.

This summer, we ask that students read at least one new book of their own choice. As this is an opportunity for our students to grow as readers, they should select books that they have never read before and avoid titles that have been read already for school or on their own. Please work with your child to select a book that aligns with their interests and reading comfort level. To obtain copies of books, students may visit the Sayreville Public Library, 1050 Washington Road (<https://sayrevillelibrary.org/>) or any other source for books or ebooks.

The English department is pleased to partner with SMS's media specialist, Mrs. Dobrzynski, for our summer reading incentive program. As students read their selected books, they are invited to keep a record of their reading using the Bingo-style reading challenge board on the next page.

You will notice that the Bingo board includes raffle tickets. Students that complete two rows on the board will earn one ticket and students that complete the entire board will earn two tickets toward a drawing for prizes. We encourage students to read multiple books, and some options for different genres are included on the Bingo board. Students should turn in Bingo boards and raffle tickets to their 2026-2027 English teachers by **Friday, September 11, 2026**.

Suggested books in a variety of genres can be found on page 5 of this document. Please note that these titles are suggestions, and students may read any books that are appropriate for their grade levels and that align to their interests.

Questions about the summer reading program may be directed to Ms. Suzanne Capraro, Supervisor of ELA, at suzanne.capraro@sayrevillek12.net or (732) 525-5252 x8126. The English Language Arts department at SMS thanks you for your support of our program and wishes our families a summer filled with stories and rewarding reading experiences!

**All Grade 6 ELA
and
Grades 7-8
ELA Grade Level (02)
and Core (04)**

**Please go to pages 6-10 for
mandatory ELA Advanced (01)
Grades 7 & 8 Assignments**

Summer Reading



Directions: Fill in the boxes based on your summer reading book. In September, you can submit your bingo card for a chance to win a raffle prize! You must have at least 2 bingo lines (diagonal, across, down) for 1 raffle ticket OR the entire board for 2 raffle tickets.

<p>Find and read an article that relates to your book- Article Name: ----- How does it relate?</p>	<p>Read your summer reading book in your pajamas. Take a selfie or have someone witness and sign this box!</p>	<p>What is the Title and author of your summer reading book? Title: Author:</p>	<p>Read your summer reading book outdoors! Take a selfie or have someone witness and sign this box!</p>
<p>What is one question you would ask the author?</p>	<p>List one song title that relates to your book. Why did you choose that title?</p>	<p>What is one quote or something important the main character said?</p>	<p>My summer reading book reminds me of another book, movie or show. Fill in the title below and explain how.</p>
<p>Read your book on a weekend :) Take a selfie or have someone witness and sign this box!</p>	<p>Read a Graphic Novel, Manga or Comic Book! Write the title and author:</p>	<p>Re name the titles of 3 of the chapters.</p>	<p>Draw a small picture of anything related to your summer reading book!</p>
<p>Read a non-fiction or poetry book! Write the title and author below</p>	<p>Read your summer reading book with a friend. Take a selfie or have someone witness and sign this box!</p>	<p>Rate your summer reading book- from 1-5 stars-</p>  <p>5 Stars - Loved it, will recommend 4 Stars - Liked it a lot, may recommend 3 Stars - Liked it, it's OK 2 Stars - Meh 1 Star - Didn't like it</p>	<p>If you created an audio version of your book, who would narrate it and why?</p>

Write Student ID # here:

WRITE YOUR SIX-DIGIT ID # ON BOTH RAFFLE TICKETS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT!

Write Student ID # here:

First and Last Name: _____ Grade: _____

Summer Reading Suggestions for Grades 6-8

These recently published titles are suggestions only. Students may read any books that are appropriate for their grade levels and that align to their interests.

Information about the books listed below can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.hbook.com/story/2026-summer-reading-middle-school>

<https://www.readbrightly.com/summer-books-for-tweens/>

At the Edge of Lost

by Martha Brockenbrough

Wilderness Hacks by Joslin Brorsen

Ready or Not! #1 by Megan E. Bryant

A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation

by Pablo Cartaya

Would You Rather? Summer Edition

by Lindsey Daly

Some of Us Are Brave by Saadia Faruqi

The Green Kingdom

by Cornelia Funke and Tammi Hartung,
illustrated by Melissa Castrillon

The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli

by Karina Yan Glaser

Saber-Tooth by Robin Gow

The Genie Game by Jordan Ifueko

Alyce With a Why by Anna James

Solve Your Own Mystery: The Monster Maker

by Gareth P. Jones, ill. by Louise Forshaw

The Grimmelings by Rachael King

The Moon Without Stars by Chanel Miller

Forbidden Mountain by Brandon Mull

Chernobyl, Life, and Other Disasters:

A Graphic Memoir by Yevgenia Nayberg

The Ghost in Cabin 13 by J.C. Phillips

Soundtrack: A Novel by Jason Reynolds

Survive This Safari by Natalie D. Richards

The Dragon's Apprentice by James Riley

Mythspeaker by Christopher Robique

*Baseball's Shining Season: America's
Pastime on the Brink of War* by Martin W.
Sandler and Craig Sandler

Last Day Pool Party by Emma Steinkellner

My Sister the Werebeast by Alina Tysoe

Destiny of the Diamond Princess

by Sherri Winston

The Many Misfortunes of Eugenia Wang

by Stan Yan

A Copycat Conundrum (The Misfits)

by Lisa Yee, illustrated by Dan Santat

Goodbye French Fry by Rin Rin Yu

ELA Advanced (01)

Grades 7 & 8

Due to their elevated rigor, Grades 7 & 8 ELA Advanced-level courses call for more structured summer reading assignments. Students enrolled in the Advanced level may also participate in the raffle by submitting Bingo boards (see page 4) for the titles they read for their Advanced assignments.

Summer Reading
Incoming 7th Grade *Advanced/OI*



The assignments below are mandatory for students registered for Grade 7 Advanced ELA. Students may also participate in the Bingo board activity on page 4.

Step 1:

Select **ONE** book from the genres listed below. The book should be age appropriate and appeal to your interests. **DO NOT** use a book that you have already read.

- Historical Fiction
- Realistic Fiction
- Science Fiction
- Fantasy
- Dystopian Fiction

Step 2:

Complete the following tasks electronically in your **Google Drive**.

- ❖ Please note #1 and #2 are **MANDATORY!**

*MANDATORY:

1. **Find the Quotes:** For your summer reading log, you will make 9 entries: focus on the beginning, middle, and end of the book.
 - A. Beginning: Find 3 quotes
 - a. A quote about the setting
 - b. A quote about the characters
 - c. A quote about the conflict or problem the character is facing
 - B. Middle: Find 3 quotes
 - a. Find two quotes of your choice.
 - b. Find one quote about the climax or the most exciting part of the story.
 - C. Ending: Find 3 quotes
 - a. What is the theme or lesson that is taught in the novel?
 - b. How is the conflict resolved? Does the problem get solved?
 - c. Find a third quote of your choice.

2. **Describe the Quotes:** After finding each of your quotes, explain the quote in one paragraph (6-8 sentences).

*Post Reading Assignment (**you must select 1**)

1. Sidekick Character - Create a character that complements the main character from your novel selection. Give the character a name, personality and put him/her in a situation where they came to the aid of the main character. **One page/single spaced.**

2. Alternate Ending - Create a different ending to the novel that you read. The conclusion you create should be completely different than the way the book concluded. **One page/single spaced.**

3. Playlist - Identify **five** songs that you believe would make a good soundtrack for the novel that you read. The song/artist should be identified. Explain the relationship between the song and the novel. **3-4 sentences/per song.**

Step 3:

*Upon returning to school, on the **first day**, your Adv. ELA teacher will give you instructions for how to share your work. Be sure to have completed your assignments in your **Google Drive** for easy uploading.

*Summer reading will count as your first minor assessment grade for your 7th grade year.

Assignments are due by Friday, September 11th.

Have a safe summer and HAPPY READING!

Mrs. Wrightson

7th grade Advanced ELA

SUMMER READING INCOMING 8TH GRADE ADVANCED/01



The assignments below are mandatory for students registered for Grade 8 Advanced ELA. Students may also participate in the Bingo board activity on page 4.

Step One:

Select **ONE** book from the genres listed below. The book should be age appropriate, appeal to your interests, and be one that you have not read before.

- Historical Fiction
- Realistic Fiction
- Science Fiction
- Fantasy
- Biography/Autobiography/
Memoir

Step Two:

Complete **FOUR** of the following tasks.

*Please note the first two tasks are **MANDATORY** and then you must select two more tasks from the additional activities list.

→Mandatory (must complete both):

1. **Quotation Analysis** - Identify and analyze 5 significant quotations found throughout the book. Discuss the importance of each quotation and how the quote contributes to the story in some way. [One paragraph per quotation analysis; 5 paragraphs total]
2. **Letter to Self** - Write a letter to your future self identifying two lessons you have learned from the book you have read. [One page/single spaced]

→Post Reading Assignments (must complete two):

1. **Journal Entries** - Write 5 journal entries from the perspective of any of the main characters in your selection. The entries should sequentially follow the plot of the story and reflect the feelings/opinions of the character you selected. [One paragraph per entry; 5 paragraphs total]

2. **Sidekick Character** - Create a character that compliments the main character from your book selection. Give the character a name, personality and put him/her in a situation where they came to the aid of the main character. [**One page/single spaced**]
3. **Alternate Ending** - Create a different ending to the story you read. The conclusion you create should be completely different than the way the book concluded. [**One page/single spaced**]
4. **Playlist** - Identify 5 songs that you believe would make a good soundtrack for your selected book. The song/artist should be identified. Explain the relationship between the song and book. [**3-4 sentences/per song; 15-20 sentences total**]

Step Three:

Upon returning to school, your ELA teacher will give you instructions on how to share your work electronically. Be sure to have your completed assignments in your **SCHOOL google drive** for easy uploading. All work should be **12 pt. font/Times New Roman**. Summer reading will count as your first minor assessment grade for your 8th grade year.

ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.

We are looking forward to meeting you in September!
Have a safe summer and happy reading!

Mrs. Poulsen/Ms. Williams
Grade 8 Advanced ELA Teachers