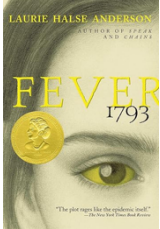


Summer Reading 2026

Arendell Parrott Academy
Middle School, Grade 7
Mrs. Gina Mackey

Summer is a time to relax and enjoy time away from the academically regimented school year. While you deserve a break from the demands of the daily grind, continuing to read over the summer is an important part of maintaining and increasing reading comprehension. Reading is also one of the best ways to increase vocabulary, hone writing skills, and learn more about the world.

Required Reading



Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson ISBN 978-0-689-84891-9

Fever 1793 is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia. At the close of the 18th century, Philadelphia was the bustling capital of the United States, with George Washington and Thomas Jefferson among the residents of the city. During the hot, mosquito-infested summer of 1793, the dreaded yellow fever spread like wildfire, killing 5,000 people, roughly ten percent of the population, in just three months. Filled with delightful imagery that moves the senses, you will engage with fictional character Mattie Cook and her fight to save herself and those she loves.

You may borrow this book from a local library, order it online, or get it from a bookstore. However you choose to get a copy, **you will need to bring it to class on the first day of school and each day until we test on the book.**

Once you are finished reading, complete the activities that follow in this packet. Your responses must be done independently (not by consulting with classmates or Internet sites). You will turn in these activities on the first day of school for a general grade (counts twice). Also, during the first week or so of school, you will take a test on this required book, which will count as a major grade (counts three times) for the first marking period. To prepare for this test, **I advise you to read this book toward the end of the summer and to take notes as you read.**

Encouraged Reading

This summer, there are also two options for additional reading. With the above benefits in mind, I hope you will choose to complete one of the following:

Option 1: Read two (2) books of your choice that you have not read before. Be sure the books are appropriate in content and reading level for middle school. Parents, librarians, bookstore clerks, and websites like Accelerated Reader can help you with deciding. A parent/guardian will need to verify that you read both books for you to receive extra credit on the summer reading test.

Option 2: Read any five (5) books from the Battle of the Books list. This option is specifically designed for any rising 7th grader who is interesting in joining APA's Battle of the Books team. If your parent/guardian verifies that you read five books, you will receive extra credit on the summer reading test and qualify to try out for the Battle of the Books team in the fall.

****Students are advised to select books that are on their reading level. In some cases, parental supervision may be necessary since the maturity level of each child is different.**

Required Reading Activities

After you have finished reading, complete each of the following activities independently and without outside sources (such as the Internet). You should type your responses, do your best work, and sign the honor pledge at the bottom of this page. *You will turn in your printed work with this page as a cover page on the first day of class.*

Activity One:

Imagine that you were allowed to interview Mattie Cook. Compose **five (5) thoughtful questions** that you would ask Mattie in your interview. Be sure they are questions that **are not answered** in the book.

Activity Two:

Pretend to be one of the individuals in the book and write a letter to another person involved in this story. For example, you could pretend to be Nathaniel and write a letter to Mattie during the epidemic. Your letter should meet the following requirements:

- Be **formatted as a friendly letter**
- Include **details** from the book (think about the people's personalities, events going on, etc.)
- Be **200-250 words** (include the word count at the bottom of the letter)

Activity Three:

Choose **two quotes** from the book and write a response with a personal connection for each quote. A personal connection may be to another book you have read, news story you have heard, an experience you have had, etc. The key is to find a way that you can relate the quote to yourself and/or your experience in the world at large. A sample is provided to guide you. Be sure to include the **page number for each quote** and make your **response to each quote 50-100 words**. Include the word count for each response at the end. You should have **two quotes with two responses/100-200 words** when you are finished.

Sample Quote:

"Nell looked up at me, her eyes as clear as the sky. She trusted me to do what was right for her." p. 185

Possible Sample Response:

This quote comes from the section when Mattie and Eliza take Nell to the orphan house. The way that Nell looks at Mattie in this quote reminds me of the time I was babysitting my little cousin, Clara. Some older kids in the neighborhood were playing jokes trying to scare some of the smaller kids and asked me to join in. Clara looked at me, and I understood I had a responsibility to do the right thing because she looked up to me. (83 words)

Honor Pledge:

On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this academic assignment. I completed the reading of my required book and completed these activities on my own.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Encouraged Reading



Please save this form and return it on the first day of school in August.
Printed Student Name: _____

Option 1: Extra Credit Reading (2 books of choice)

In addition to the required book, my son/daughter read the following two selections. He/she has not previously read these books, and they are appropriate in content and reading level for a middle school student.

1. _____

2. _____

Parent's signature

Student's signature

Option 2: Extra Credit Reading (5 from BOB list)

In addition to the required book, my son/daughter read the following five selections from the **BOB list** for extra credit and qualification to try out for the Battle of the Books team in the fall:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Parent's signature

Student's signature



2026-2027 MBOB List NC Middle School Battle of the Books a program of the North Carolina School Library Media Association

Title	Author
<i>Agent Most Wanted*</i>	Sonia Purnell
<i>All Thirteen</i>	Christina Soontornvat
<i>Blood in the Water</i>	Tiffany D. Jackson
<i>The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn</i>	Sally J. Pla
<i>Island of Spies</i>	Sheila Turnage
<i>The Last Cuentista</i>	Donna Barba Higuera
<i>Long Lost</i>	Jacqueline West
<i>Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish</i>	Pablo Cartaya
<i>Nyxia</i>	Scott Reintgen
<i>Other Words for Home</i>	Jasmine Warga
<i>Restart</i>	Gordon Korman
<i>The Secret Battle of Evan Pao</i>	Wendy Wan-Long Shang
<i>Shark Teeth</i>	Sherri Winston
<i>Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</i>	Kwame Mbalia
<i>Two Tribes</i>	Emily Bowen Cohen
<i>When We Flew Away**</i>	Alice Hoffman

*young readers adaptation of *A Woman of No Importance*

**student choice selection