ROCHESTER
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

7-8 GRADE SUMMER READING 2026

Directions: Choose 1 book that you haven't yet read from the appropriate list below and read it to completion. Throughout the course of your reading, you will be creating a ***handwritten dialectical journal*** in a **composition notebook** to be turned in at Meet the Teacher in August. **Please put your name and the book title on the cover of the notebook.**

7th Grade Choices:	**ISBN:**
Sunshine by Jarrett Krosoczka	978-1338356311
The House of Scorpion by Nancy Farmer	978-0689852237
The Maze Runner by James Dashner	978-1613832288
Animal Farm by George Orwell	978-0451526342
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera	978-1646140893

8th Grade Choices:	**ISBN:**
Maus I: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelman	978-0394747231
I Am Malala: Young Readers Edition	978-0316327916
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne	978-0385751537
Four-Four-Two by Dean Hughes	978-1481462532
The Red Bandana: Young Readers Edition by Tom Rinaldi	978-0425287644

We encourage everyone to utilize the websites Goodreads and Common Sense Media for synopsis and reviews to help choose the best book for each student.

See Reverse for Assignment Details

Dialectical Journal Assignment

What is a Dialectical Journal?
A dialectical journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. A dialectical journal is a journal that records a dialogue, or conversation between the ideas in the text (the words that you are reading) and the ideas of the reader (the person who is doing the reading).

This is what you must do in your journal-keep a dialogue with yourself. In your journal, have a conversation with the text and yourself. Write down your thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas while you read. The important part is that you, the reader, are reading something and then responding to it with your feelings and ideas. You may say whatever you want as long as it's supported by the text.

How Do I Keep A Dialectical Journal?
Your journal will use a two-entry form: Fold the page in half. In the **LEFT COLUMN**, write down a direct quote no longer than 3 sentences from the book that you think are interesting or important. Be sure to cite which page the quote is from. In the **RIGHT COLUMN**, write down **YOUR OWN** thoughts, commentary, and questions about the information in the **LEFT COLUMN**. This could include questions about, feelings about, or the importance of what is going on at that moment in the story. Your thoughts should be 2-4 sentences long.

When I am Writing in my Dialectical Journal, is there a Right and Wrong Answer?
NO! A dialectical journal shows your own thoughts and ideas about the things we read in class. When you write in your journal, you should be as original and creative as you can be.

Sample of One Entry:

Chapter/ Page #	Quote from the Text	Response to Quote
Chapter 1 p. 19	"I was sent to solitary confinement in my new room and ordered to write a letter of apology to each guest."	Why does Sarah's mother make her do this? She was just following her beliefs on how humans should be treated.

How many entries should I write?
The expectation is that you write **TEN** entries for the book. However, space them out. Try to have an entry every chapter or two. If your book only has very few chapters, have at least 10-20 pages in between entries.

Can I type my entries?
No. All entries must be handwritten in a new notebook labeled with your name and title of the book you are reading/journaling about.

When is it due?
This summer reading assignment is due by **Meet the Teacher** in August.