

St. George's Episcopal School
2026 Summer Reading for Students Entering Eighth Grade

You will read **TWO** books this summer, one required text and one chosen from the list below.

There is no required written assignment to complete during the summer itself. We will, however, be using these titles as the basis for graded literature activities during the first quarter of 8th grade, so please complete the required books before the first day of school.



REQUIRED READING: *CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER*

BY JAMES L. SWANSON

ALL RISING 8TH GRADERS SHOULD READ THIS BOOK BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

THERE IS NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT TO COMPLETE DURING THE SUMMER.

YOU WILL HAVE GRADED WORK FOR THIS TEXT DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 8TH GRADE.

READING HELP: You are not required to complete a written assignment during the summer, but if you wish to complete some activities to help you keep the book fresh in your mind, you may enjoy one of the following. **These activities will NOT be collected or graded!!**

- At the end of each chapter, write a 1-2 sentence summary of the events recorded in the chapter. This will help you follow the story as it changes perspective. Consider recording a new fact that you learned from each chapter as well.
- Choose 5 important events in the book to illustrate. Write a couple of sentences for each picture detailing why you think that event is important.

CHOICE TITLES: CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO READ.

You are required to read a second book this summer. Your chosen title will serve as the basis for an introductory literature assignment during the first quarter of 8th grade. You may choose from the following list. Parents are encouraged to preview any titles their kids may wish to read.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Unabridged) Twain, Mark

Tom Sawyer, a mischievous 19th-century boy in a Mississippi River town, and his friends, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher, run away from home, witness a murder, and find treasure in a cave.

The Hobbit Tolkein, J. R. R.

This stirring adventure is a fantasy that introduces the far-wandering hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Adams, Douglas

A dry, humorous book. After the end of the world and the days that follow it, Ford Prefect and Arthur Dent meet an assortment of characters as they make their way around the galaxy.

The Book Thief Zusak, Marcus

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

Murder on the Orient Express Christie, Agatha

While the train is stopped in a Balkan snowdrift, Poirot must solve the problem of the dead American.

Treasure Island (Unabridged) Stevenson, Robert Louis

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune and great danger.

Flowers for Algernon Keyes, Daniel

Charlie Gordon, born with an unusually low IQ, must face his gradual return to his former state when the astounding results of an experimental surgery that increased his intelligence prove to be only temporary. Common Sense Media has not rated this book, but parents should be aware that it contains some mature content.

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings Engle, Margarita

The daughter of a Cuban mother and an American father, whose own parents fled from Europe to escape World War II, is no longer able to visit her grandmother and the land she loves as tensions rise between the United States and Cuba.

Stargirl Spinelli, Jerry

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Same Kind of Different as Me Hall, Ron and Moore, Denver

The story of the development of an unlikely but deeply felt friendship between an international art dealer and a former sharecropper. (Nonfiction)

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Angelou, Maya

This sensitive autobiography tells of a black woman's childhood journey to retain her personal "human dignity." Contains some mature content. (Nonfiction)

Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Sheinkin, Steve

A great American sport and Native American history come together in this true story of how Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner created the legendary Carlisle Indians football team. (Nonfiction)

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice Hoose, Phillip

The forgotten true story of a teen who helped start the Civil Rights movement by standing up against Jim Crow laws. (Nonfiction)