



Summer Reading
2026
David E. Owens Middle School
New Milford, New Jersey



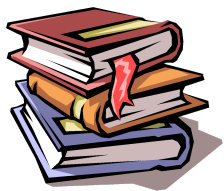
*Summer is a time that should find us looking forward to reading and remembering that a good book can be fun as well as informative. David E. Owens Middle School encourages all students and their families to engage in reading together this summer by exploring literature of all kinds. Research has shown that students who read during the summer months retain more learning and move into the new school year more prepared than do students who do not engage in reading. We want students to build time during the day to read independently. By encouraging students to read independently over the summer, we support the goal of creating lifelong readers. **Our district mission is to have all students read at least 20 minutes each day this summer.***

*This year's summer reading format allows students to read one free choice book for the assignment, and an unlimited number of additional reading choices. By clicking on the appropriate level for next year's grade, students and their families can find information to assist with this selection. Each grade level also includes details about the learning opportunity for the **required** book that will be due in September. Students are encouraged to read all different genres and forms of written expression including newspapers, magazines, fiction, historical fiction, biographies, non-fiction and poetry. **There is no limit on what a student can read this summer---Just Read!***

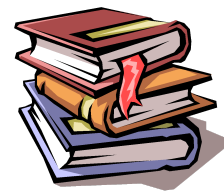
All students, including those who are new to David E. Owens Middle School are included in the summer reading program and are encouraged to participate fully in it.

Enjoy the summer, and be sure to read!

*Mr. DeLalla
Principal*



Summer Reading 6th grade – 2026 Suggested Book List



All 6th grade students are required to read one book of their choice. If you are looking for inspiration, here is a good list to explore:

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up, but Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else.

Matilda by Roald Dahl

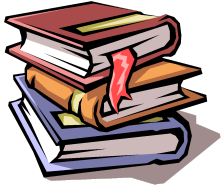
Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a kid-hating terror of a headmistress. When Matilda is attacked by the Trunchbull she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it!

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

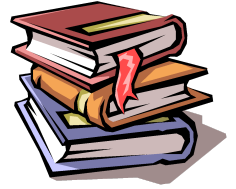
Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some very unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown.

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan

Like many girls her age in India, thirteen-year-old Koly faces her arranged marriage with hope and courage. However, Koly's story takes a terrible turn when in the wake of the ceremony, she discovers she's been horribly misled; her life has been sold for a dowry. In prose both graceful and unflinching, this powerful novel relays the story of a rare young woman, who even when cast out into a brutal current of time-worn tradition, sets out to forge her own remarkable future. Inspired by a newspaper article about the real thirteen-year-old widows in India today, this universally acclaimed best-selling novel, characterized by spare, lyrical language and remarkable detail, transports readers into the heart of a gripping tale of hope.



Summer Reading 6th grade – 2026 Assignment



After reading the book of your choice, all students will be required to choose and complete **ONE** project from the options below.

- **A Journal/Diary from a Character's Perspective-** If you choose this option, you will need to write at least **5** entries in a Journal/Diary from **one of the character's perspectives**. Be sure to discuss other characters, events, or problems in the story through your entries. This journal will assess your knowledge of Point of View and Plot. The journal may be handwritten or typed. All typed work should be completed in Google Docs using your school account.
- **A Movie Trailer for your Book-** If you choose this option, you will need to record a movie trailer to spark interest in your book. Your movie trailer should be **no more than 2 minutes** long and should **include visual and audio elements**. Be sure to give enough information about your book, **without giving the ending away**. This trailer will assess your knowledge of Character and Plot Elements. Videos should be saved in a universal file format, such as MP4.
- **A Travel Brochure for the Time and Place your Book is Set in-** If you choose this option, you will need to create a travel brochure that highlights the **setting(s)** of your story. You must include both visual and written elements that inform the reader about **3 different locations** in your story. This assignment will assess your knowledge of story setting and should be **one page front and back**. You can create your brochure by hand or using publishing tools. Be sure to either complete your work using Google Suite on your school account or be able to provide a PDF or printed version of your work.

Project Rubric

	A	B	C
Knowledge of Literary Element	Exhibits a strong understanding of the Literary Element assigned.	Exhibits some understanding of the Literary Element assigned.	Exhibits little to no understanding of the Literary Element assigned.
Creativity	Exhibits creativity and originality.	Exhibits some creativity and originality.	Exhibits little to no originality.
Visual Appeal/ Organization	Written elements are well organized and neat. Visual elements are visually appealing.	Written elements are somewhat organized and neat. Some visual elements are visually appealing.	Little to no organization. Care was not taken with visual elements.
Thoughtfulness	Project is thorough and thoughtful.	Project is thorough.	Project could have been done with more thought and care.
Comprehension	Student shows comprehension of the text.	Student shows some comprehension of the text.	Student shows little comprehension of the text.

