

Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading 2026

Dear Parents and Students:

All of us who are involved in teaching reading and English acknowledge the value of reading all year long – not just during the school year. For that reason, we have developed a required summer reading assignment because we believe it will help students meet academic challenges in the coming year and encourage them to develop independent reading habits.

Directions for students entering Grade 8:

- 1. Read any book from the list on the following pages.**
- 2. Divide your book into thirds; each third of the book should have a log page completed for it.**
- 3. While reading, complete Summer Reading Logs for each of the 3 sections. Reading Logs will be collected for credit during the 1st week of school. Responses should be thorough and specific, reflecting on main events, themes, and characters; as well as, personal connections and ideas.**
- 4. PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN ZERO CREDIT FOR ALL STUDENTS INVOLVED. This includes using AI to generate responses.**
- 5. In addition to completing the Summer Reading Logs, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the book during the 1st week of school. These assessments may include a project, discussions, test, and/or writing assignment.**

This packet of information is available on the Penn-Delco website at www.pdsd.org.

We advise students who purchase their book to keep them. They will find it helpful to have the books available to refer to when they return to school and start working on assignments related to their summer reading.

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Language Arts Teachers

Required Reading: Choose one book from this list:

- ***Refugee (Novel or Graphic Novel)* by Alan Gratz:** A young adult historical novel following three children—Josef (1939 Nazi Germany), Isabel (1994 Cuba), and Mahmoud (2015 Syria)—who flee persecution in search of safety. Their harrowing, distinct journeys across decades connect through themes of resilience, survival, and the search for home amidst humanitarian crises.
- ***Unstoppable* by Tim Green:** A middle-grade novel about Harrison, a foster kid with a dream of playing in the NFL. After moving to a loving new home, he becomes a star football player but soon faces a devastating health issue. Will Harrison return to the sport he loves?
- ***Stars are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson:** A graphic novel memoir, detailing Omar's childhood in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. After fleeing war in Somalia, Omar and his nonverbal brother, Hassan, spend years waiting for resettlement, navigating hunger, friendship, and the hope of education, ultimately leading to their, and their mother's, eventual resettlement in America.
- ***Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park:** Tells the intertwined stories of two Sudanese children. Set against the backdrop of the Second Sudanese Civil War, the novel alternates between the true story of Salva Dut, starting in 1985, and the fictional account of Nya, starting in 2008. Salva, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, escapes conflict and hardship. Nya, a serious young girl, undertakes daily journeys to fetch water. Their stories converge to reveal the significant impact of clean water while emphasizing the power of human perseverance and the possibility for empathy and change.
- ***Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clemens:** Teens, especially those not in the über-popular set, know all about feeling invisible. But what would happen if you actually did wake up invisible one day? Fifteen-year-old Bobby is faced with this curious predicament.

Student Name: _____ Pages: _____ - _____ Book

Title: _____ Secon (circle): 1 2 3

Five EVENTS that happen: Minimum- one sentence for each event

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Five WONDERINGS: (questions/ideas you do not understand or predict what will happen next)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Two IMPORTANT PASSAGES and a thorough EXPLANATION for each (consider interesting, funny, puzzling, or important passages that stood out while reading & make personal connections):

Page #: Quote:	Page #: Quote:
Explanation:	Explanation:

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