



*TOIS Summer Reading
BINGO!*

**For Students Entering
Grades 5-8**

Summer 2026



Student's Name:

Title:

Author:

Summer Reading BINGO

This summer, all students entering grades 5-8 will choose a book (fiction or nonfiction) that sparks their interest and provides an appropriate level of challenge. Students should read a “new to you” book. Please avoid reading titles that have been assigned in previous grade levels. Lists of recommended titles for each grade are available at the end of this packet.

We encourage parents/guardians to talk with your students about their book choices in order to find a book that is the best fit for your family.

In addition to choosing and reading a book, we encourage students to participate in several fun, optional BINGO activities! Students may choose to complete the BINGO activities to have fun and win prizes!

Directions for BINGO Board

- 1. Complete the activities in the squares on the board to make a “Bingo.” “Bingo” is 5 boxes in a row - horizontal, vertical, or diagonal - or all 4 corners and the middle square.**
- 2. Each square on the board is either a book to read or an activity to complete.**
- 3. Mark your completed squares by crossing them out with an “X.”**
- 4. Everyone must complete the “Golden Box” in the middle by reading a book of your choice. Reading a book of your choice is required. Complete the other activities for fun and to win prizes!**
- 5. All students who complete at least one Bingo will be entered into a raffle to win a grand prize (to be announced).**

If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, please contact the English department Supervisor, Mr. Schwartz - ischwartz@oceanschools.org.

Read a realistic fiction book



Share aloud a book, story, or article



Explore a blog about a place you would like to visit



Find a picture book to read to a child



Read a nonfiction book



Design a workout for a character in a book



Draw a picture about a book



Make a music video for your book



Share a book on social media and tag a friend



Find a new place to read



Research and read about a current event



Relax in a comfy spot and read



Read a book of your choice
(REQUIRED SQUARE)



Write a poem about a book



Make a bookmark for your book



Talk to an adult about a book



Create a music playlist for your book



Go outside and read



Write a letter to a character



Watch a movie version of a book you have read



Read a graphic novel



Make a video persuading someone to read a book you have read



Prepare food mentioned in a book or that a character would like to eat



Email or Tweet the author of a book you have read



Read a fantasy book



Suggested Titles and Authors 4th into 5th Grade

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
A Soft Place To Land by Janae Marks
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly
The New Kid by Jerry Craft
El Deafo by Cece Bell
Smile by Raina Telgemeier
The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl by Stacy McAnulty
Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage
Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley
Pax by Sarah Pennypacker
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
The Genius Files by Dan Gutman
Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo
Two Naomis by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich & Audrey Vernick
Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate
Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai
The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
kira-kira by Cynthia Kadohata
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
The Familiars by Adam Jay Epstein
Jinx by Sage Blackwood
Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Suggested Series

Nonfiction:

Who Was --? Series

What Is --? Series

Where Is --?Series

Fiction:

The I Survived Series by Lauren Tarshis

Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass & others in her Willow Falls series

Percy Jackson & the Olympians series

Flashback Four series by Dan Gutman

Recommended Books for Students Entering Sixth Grade

***The Fairy Tale Detectives* (Sisters Grimm Series #1)**

by Michael Buckley

With the winning combination of *Nancy Drew* meets *Shrek*, this first book in the new *Sisters Grimm* series will entertain with a hilarious mix of mysteries and fairy tale twists. In the tradition of *Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events* and *The Spiderwick Chronicles* comes a new humorous mystery of fantastic circumstances. *The Sisters Grimm (Book One): The Fairy Tale Detectives* introduces us to two orphaned sisters, Sabrina and Daphne, who are sent to live with their mysterious grandmother, Relda Grimm. Grandmother Grimm lives in a strange town in New York State, known for its extraordinary number of unexplained and unusual crimes. As soon as the sisters arrive, they begin to unravel a mystery that leads to their ancestors' magical beginnings. Sabrina and Daphne learn they are descendants of the Brothers Grimm, who were actually detectives of the magical phenomenon perpetrated by the Everafters, a parallel race of magical beings. They soon discover it is the Grimm family's legacy to keep the Everafters in line and the two sisters are the sole heirs to this challenge!

Bud, Not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Ten-year-old Bud, living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, leaves a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he thinks is his father. The man he is looking for is the famous H.E. Calloway.

Heat

by M. Lupica

Michael Arroyo, a 13-year-old Cuban immigrant, dreams of playing in the Little League World Series. After all, he's an excellent pitcher on his team, and he lives next to Yankee Stadium. But how can his team from the South Bronx beat the rich kids from the suburbs? Michael has more than baseball on his mind, however, as he must deal with the death of his father, and his decision (with big brother Carlos) to keep the death a secret to avoid foster care. Sports fans will relish the on-court action, expertly rendered in Lupica's taut prose.

Out of My Mind

by Sharon Draper

"If there is one book teens and parents (and everyone else) should read this year, *Out of My Mind* should be it" (Denver Post). Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom—the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise.

Crash

by Jerry Spinelli

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

From the Desk of Zoe

Washington by Janae Marks

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed.

Recommended Books for Students Entering Seventh Grade (p. 1)

Parallel Journeys

by Eleanor Ayer

Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck were born just a few miles from each other in the German Rhineland. But their lives took radically different courses: Helen's to the Auschwitz extermination camp; Alfons to a high rank in the Hitler Youth.

While Helen was hiding in Amsterdam, Alfons was a fanatic believer in Hitler's "master race."

While she was crammed in a cattle car bound for the death camp Auschwitz, he was a teenage commander of frontline troops, ready to fight and die for the glory of Hitler and the Fatherland.

This book tells both of their stories, side-by-side, in an overwhelming account of the nightmare.

Amos Fortune Free Man

by Elizabeth Yates

"It does a man no good to be free until he learns how to live." These were the words of Amos Fortune, born the son of a king of the At-mun-shi tribe in Africa. When Amos was only fifteen years old, he was captured by slave traders and brought to Massachusetts, where he was sold at auction.

Although his freedom had been taken, Amos never lost his dignity and courage. He dreamed of being free and of buying the freedom of his closest friends. By the time he was sixty years old, Amos Fortune began to see those dreams come true. Amos Fortune, Free Man is a Newbery Award winner that is based on a true story.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

by Jack Gantos

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. In this antic yet poignant new novel, Jack Gantos has perfect pitch in capturing the humor, the off-the-wall intensity, and the serious challenges that life presents to a kid dealing with hyperactivity and related disorders.

The Graduation of Jake Moon

by Barbara Park

Jake Moon's grandfather, Skelly, is descending from Jake's beloved confidante and unwavering champion into an embarrassing nightmare. The reason? Alzheimer's disease. But in a situation like this, it isn't just the grandfather who changes – it is those who love him as well. An honest, amusing, and touching account of an all-too-real situation.

The 11:11 Wish

by Kim Tomsic

Megan Meyers has a foolproof plan to reinvent herself at her new school. Good-bye, dorky math nerd; hello, friend magnet! But her first day at Saguro Prep starts off weird to the tenth power.

When she's dared to "make something exciting happen," Megan is thrown into the middle of an epic power struggle between the two seventh-grade Spirit Captains. So with nothing to lose, Megan wishes for "some magic" as her classroom's cat clock chimes 11:11—and is granted an enchanted teen magazine promising miracle makeovers and sure-fire secrets for winning friends and crushes. But magic can have dangerous side effects, and as her social life grows exponentially worse, Megan begins to wonder if wishing was ever a purrfect idea.

Matched

by Ally Condie

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her it's a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she's destined to lead with Xander. But Cassia can't stop thinking about Ky, and as they slowly fall in love, Cassia begins to doubt the Society's infallibility and is faced with an impossible choice: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path that no one else has dared to follow.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

by Kelly Barnhill

THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON is the story of Luna, taken as a baby from her family in the Protectorate as part of a cruel ritual designed to keep the populace fearful and compliant. Though the Elders circulate a story that an evil witch demands the annual sacrifice, they don't realize there's actually a good witch who saves and protects the babies. When Xan rescues Luna, she accidentally feeds her moonbeams that "enmagic" her, so she decides to adopt and raise Luna in a family that includes a dragon and a wise bog monster. Luna's magical powers prove to be unpredictable and unruly, so Xan casts a spell that cocoons the magic until her 13th birthday. Will Luna harness her magic successfully? This story is interwoven with stories from the Protectorate about an antagonist who feeds on the sorrow of others, Luna's mother who yearns for her lost daughter, and a brave couple who challenge the status quo.

Recommended Books for Students Entering Seventh Grade (p. 2)

The Summer I Turned Pretty

by Jenny Han

Belly measures her life in summers. Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer, a place away from the beach house, away from Susannah, and most importantly, away from Jeremiah and Conrad. They are the boys that Belly has known since her very first summer—they have been her brother figures, her crushes, and everything in between. But one summer, one terrible and wonderful summer, the more everything changes, the more it all ends up just the way it should have been all along.

Recommended Books for Students Entering Eighth Grade

Cracker!: the best dog in Vietnam

by Cynthia Kadohata

Told in part through the point of view of a German shepherd, *Cracker!* is an action-packed glimpse into the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a dog and his handler.

Virals

by Kathy Reichs

A ragtag band of teenage "sci-philes" live on a secluded island off the coast of South Carolina and rescue a dog caged for medical testing on a nearby island. They are exposed to an experimental strain of canine parvovirus that changes their lives forever.

Skink

by Carl Hiaasen

Classic Malley—to avoid being shipped off to boarding school, she takes off with some guy she met online. Poor Richard—he knows his cousin's in trouble before she does. Wild Skink—he's a ragged, one-eyed ex-governor of Florida, and enough of a renegade to think he can track Malley down. With Richard riding shotgun, the unlikely pair scour the state, undaunted by blinding storms, crazed pigs, flying bullets, and giant gators.

The Truth About Twinkie Pie

by Kat Yeh

Take two sisters making it on their own: brainy twelve-year-old GiGi and middle school dropout and hairstylist DiDi. Add a million dollars in prize money from a national cooking contest and a move from the trailer parks of South Carolina to the North Shore of Long Island. Mix in a fancy new school, new friends and enemies, a first crush, and a generous sprinkling of family secrets.

The Summer of Letting Go

by Gae Polisner

Four years ago, Francesca's little brother, Simon, drowned, and Francesca's the one who should have been watching. Now Francesca is about to turn sixteen, her best friend is moving on—most recently with the boy Francesca wants but can't have. At loose ends, Francesca trails her father, who may be having an affair, to the local country club. There she meets four-year-old Frankie Sky, a little boy who bears an almost eerie resemblance to Simon, and Francesca begins to wonder if it's possible Frankie could be his reincarnation.

Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two

by Joseph Bruchac

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years.

Believe: My Faith and the Tackle That Changed My Life

by Eric LeGrand & Mike Yorkey

The defensive lineman for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights, who was paralyzed from the neck down after suffering a severe spinal injury during a game, shares the transformative journey he calls "the best year of his life" during which he, guided by faith and optimism, triumphed over pain and adversity.



Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson

A middle-grade novel about two enslaved children's escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom. When Homer learns of a threat that could destroy his adopted home, Freewater, he crafts a plan to find his mother and help his new home.