2026 Middle School
Tech-Free Summer Learning Assignment

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL OF NAPLES

This Packet Belongs to…

Q: Why do we require tech-free summer reading, writing, math, & science assignments at TVS?

A: Just as physical exercise keeps our bodies healthy and in shape, reading, responding to literature, and practicing core math and science content will keep our skills sharp and creates a lifelong love of books and learning! Research indicates that students with access to books and a curriculum that encourages independent reading and learning, along with support from encouraging adults, experience a gain in skills as opposed to a loss over the summer months. Therefore, ALL 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at TVS Middle School are required to complete the Summer Learning Assignment.

The Goals of Summer Learning at TVS:

1. To avoid the "summer slide"-- a term used to describe the loss of literacy skills experienced by students following the summer break.

2. To encourage independent reading at all levels and foster a love of literature and learning **without** the use of technology.

3. To reinforce skills like comprehension, making connections, summarizing, writing, and even the introduction of new core content! Students will turn in their Summer Learning assignments in the first week of school.

Questions and concerns regarding the Summer Learning Assignment can be directed to the Assistant Head of Middle School, Mrs. April Butler.

Grade-Level Book Lists; Variety is the spice of life!

Students may choose a book from the following list– curated from Sunshine State Readers' book list, classic novels, and several selections that extend the previous years' curriculum and introduce students to the new grade-level curriculum as well! Choosing the "right" book should be a family conversation– there are books from various genres and topics, so students can find a book that suits their interests and reading levels.

Students who choose to read multiple books should complete a one-pager for each and they will be entered into our **Summer Book Challenge** for a chance to earn rewards and win prizes! The One-Pager assignment can be accessed digitally on our school website if you need additional copies.

7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Complete this assignment as you read for ONE book from the approved book list.

Summer reading provides an opportunity to enhance your reading and writing skills and enjoy books that you've selected. To prepare for the new school year, you will be required to read at least one book over the summer, choosing from the list provided and completing the following assignment.

For your book assignment, you will...

- **record at least 10 significant quotes,**
- **complete a one-pager,**
- **choose a prompt and write a 4-paragraph essay,**
- **grade yourself using the essay rubric**

Important Quotes Instructions & Example:

Page	Direct Quote	Significance
58	"Better to be hurt by the truth than comforted with a lie."	In this quote, Baba comments about the jealously many Afghanis feel when their country is not perceived as a world power. The passage reveals not only Baba's character as a realist, but a universal truth: that those who allow themselves to be pacified by lies end up hurt and disillusioned.

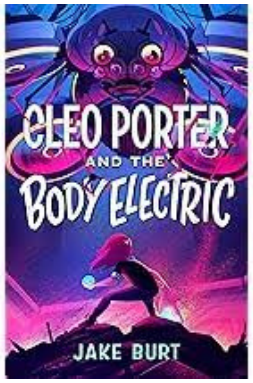
*From **The Kite Runner**,* Khaled Hosseini

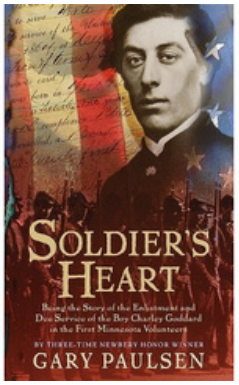
Each entry should include a quote, the page number on which it is found, and a two-to-three sentence analysis of why the quote is significant. For example, the quote might capture a key moment within the plot, reveal the personality of a major character, or include well-crafted figurative language or important symbolism. Or the passage may inspire thought, draw an emotional connection, or have a personal connection to your own life. Whatever the reason, explain why the quote matters and/or your reason for selecting it. The quotations should be kept in the order in which they appear in the book. Be sure to include page numbers for all evidence that you collect. Your evidence should be thoughtful and thorough, as you will write an essay after completing your reading, using your recordings to help support your claims.

2025 7th Grade Summer Book List

Cleo Porter and the Body Electric
by Jake Burt

A woman is dying. Cleo Porter has her medicine. And no way to deliver it. Like everyone else, twelve-year-old Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment without windows or doors. They never leave. They never get visitors. Their food is dropped off by drones. So they're safe. Safe from the disease that nearly wiped humans from the earth. Safe from everything. The trade-off? They're alone. Thus, when they receive a package clearly meant for someone else--a package containing a substance critical for a stranger's survival--Cleo is stuck. But people don't leave their units. Not ever. Until now.





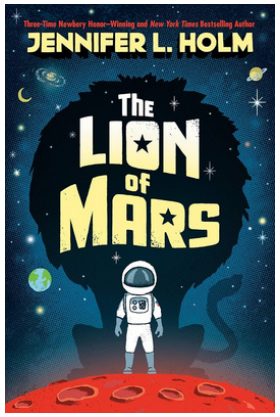
Soldier's Heart
by Gary Paulsen

In June 1861, when the Civil War began, Charley Goddard enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteers. He was 15. He didn't know what a "shooting war" meant or what he was fighting for. But he didn't want to miss out on a great adventure. The "shooting war" turned out to be the horror of combat and the wild luck of survival; how it feels to cross a field toward the enemy, waiting for fire. When he entered the service he was a boy. When he came back he was different; he was only 19, but he was a man with "soldier's heart," later known as "battle fatigue."

The Red Badge of Courage
by Stephen Crane

The Red Badge of Courage is an 1895 war novel by American author Stephen Crane. It is considered one of the most influential works in American literature. The novel, a depiction of the cruelty of the American Civil War, features a young recruit who overcomes initial fears to become a hero on the battlefield. The book made Crane an international success. Although he was born after the war and had not at the time experienced battle firsthand, the novel is considered an example of Realism.





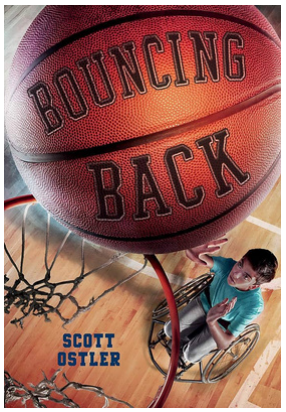
The Lion of Mars
by Jennifer L. Holm

Bell has spent his whole life - all eleven years of it - on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid - he loves cats, and any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why don't have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell - a regular kid in a very different world - to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

2025 7th Grade Summer Book List

Bouncing Back
by Scott Ostler

Thirteen-year-old Carlos Cooper used to be the star of the team. But, on his new wheelchair basketball team, he's back to being just one of the players, nothing special. When the city closes down his league's gym, Carlos soon finds himself even more adrift. Without the gym, they can't practice, and if they can't practice, they might as well kiss their dreams of a State Championship win goodbye. It's only by learning to work together that Carlos and his new teammates will be able to save their gym, and Carlos will have to learn what it takes to be a member of the team so he can fully embrace his new friends.



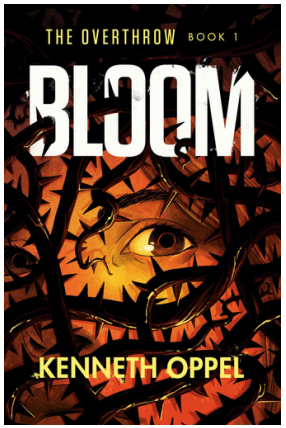


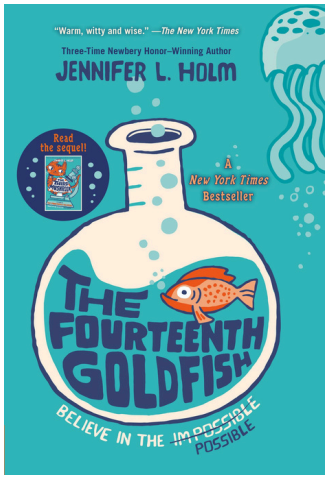
The Secret Garden
by Caitlin Frances Hodgson Burnett

This beloved children's novel follows the journey of Mary Lennox, a young girl who undergoes a remarkable transformation as she discovers a hidden garden and forms unlikely friendships. Mary, initially spoiled and unhappy, is sent to live with her uncle in a secluded manor. As she explores the vast estate, she stumbles upon a neglected garden and, with the help of her cousin Colin and a local boy named Dickon, begins to breathe life back into it. Through their shared love for the garden, the children not only revive the once-forgotten space but also find solace, joy, and personal growth, proving that the magic of nature can heal both land and soul.

Bloom
by Kenneth Oppel

The invasion begins--but not as you'd expect. It begins with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollens. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. They bloom--everywhere, unstoppable. Or are they? Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants: Anaya, Petra, Seth. They each have strange allergies-- and yet not to the plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion?





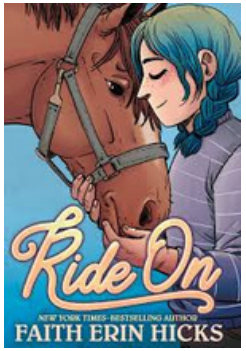
The Fourteenth Goldfish
by Jennifer L. Holm

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

2025 7th Grade Summer Book List

Ride On
by Faith Erin Hicks

Victoria has always loved horses. But riding in competitions is high stakes, high stress, and shockingly expensive. And even though Victoria's best friend Taylor loves competing, Victoria has lost her taste for it. After a heartbreaking fight with Taylor, Victoria needs a new start—at a new stables. A place where she doesn't have to worry about anything other than riding. No competition, no drama, no friends. Just horses. Edgewood Stables seems ideal. There are plenty of horses to ride, and Victoria is perfectly happy giving the other riders the cold shoulder. But can she truly be happy with no friends?



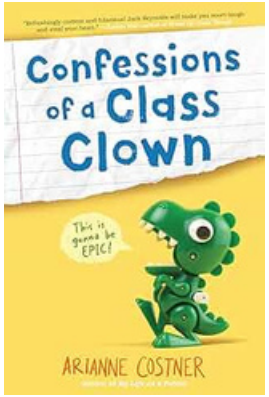
The Superteacher Project
by Gordon Korman



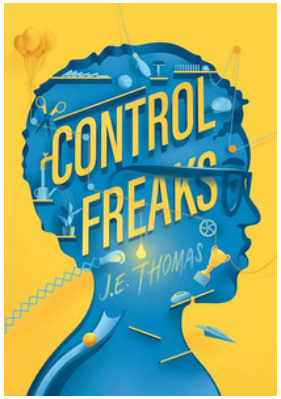
Oliver Zahn, spitball champion and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as "pupils." The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It's time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the new teacher who's boss. Against all odds, Mr. Aidact starts to become the most popular teacher at Brightling. Still, Oliver and Nathan know that something is fishy. They're determined to get to the bottom of the mystery: What's the deal with Mr. Aidact?

Confessions of a Class Clown
by Arianne Costner

Meet Jack Reynolds. Making people laugh is his life's work. Jack's wacky MyTube channel is really starting to take off. The only problem is, for the truly epic posts, he needs a collaborator. And, well, he doesn't exactly have any friends. So Jack has to swallow his pride and join the new after-school Speed Friendshipping club. But who would make the best partner in comedy? Brielle, Miss Perfect candidate for student body president? Mario, whose mom won't even let him have a smart phone? Or Tasha, the quiet, mysterious girl with a shaved head and a crocheted hat for every day of the week? One of these kids could help catapult Jack to internet fame . . . or even become a true friend. But what will it cost him to go viral?



Control Freaks
by J.E Thomas



The kids at Benjamin Banneker College Prep are a little... competitive. The minute Principal Yee announces an epic competition, seventh-grader Frederick Douglass Zezzmer knows he has to win. But it won't be easy. The competition doesn't just include STEM. It also has arts and sports. Not Doug's best subjects. Even worse, it's a TEAM competition. Doug gets paired with four middle school misfits no one else wants. Worst of all, if Doug doesn't win, he has to forget about becoming The World's Greatest Inventor and spend the summer in sports camp, with his scary stepbrother. With only a week to go, Doug launches a quest to turn his team of outcasts into winners... and maybe even friends.

Important Quotes

Complete this page as you read for ONE book from the approved book list.

Book Title:

Author:

As you read, record at least 10 important quotations from the text—whether they capture key plot, character, or theme developments; include well-crafted language or important symbolism; or draw an emotional or personal connection to your own life. Explain the significance of each quote in 2-3 sentences.

Page #:	Direct Quote:	Significance:

Page #:	Direct Quote:	Significance:



Essay 

Complete this assignment for ONE book from the approved book list. Circle the prompt you choose.

Book Title:

Author:

<u>Choose one of the following essay prompts.</u> Write a well-constructed and cohesive four-paragraph essay, responding to the prompt and basing your response on one of the books you read this summer. Identify the book and author in the first paragraph. Your essay must include an introduction, 2 body paragraphs and conclusion. Be sure to use specific examples from the book to support a clear thesis statement. You must include at least <u>three direct quotations</u> from the book in your essay as part of your evidence, citing the page number on which each was found. You may use the evidence you collected on your "Important Quotes" organizer as well as the book itself.

Prompt #1	Sometimes in stories, something good can come out of a tough or difficult situation. Think about your book and find a time when this happens. In your writing, explain what the hard situation was and describe what good thing came from it.	**Prompt #2**	In many books, characters stand up for something they believe is right. Choose a character from your book who does this. In your writing, tell who the character is, explain what they believe in, and describe how they show courage or take action. Then explain how this moment is important to the story.
Prompt #3	In some stories, the main character learns a lot from another person—like a mentor, teacher, or guide. This person can help the character see themselves or the world in a new way. Think about your book. Is there someone like this in the story? In your writing, describe this mentor and explain how they affect the main character and why that matters in the story.	**Prompt #4**	Some characters in stories feel like outsiders or loners—they don't really fit in with others. Choose a character like this from your book. In your writing, describe how this character feels about themselves and how they handle feeling left out or alone.

Name _____ Date _____

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Introductory Paragraph





Write a **TAG** (title, author, genre) and brief **summary** for the piece you read.

(INDENT) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Write a **claim**, stating your answer to the question. Don't say WHY here.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____



***Everything on this page goes in your introduction paragraph.*

Name _____ Date _____

Body Paragraph #1



Write **the reason (premise)** for your claim.

(INDENT) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Introduce your evidence and include a **quote** from the text that supports your premise. Don't forget quotation marks.
**Challenge yourself: add background information and "set the scene" for the quote.*

Circle one: **According to the text, The author states, The author writes, According to the author,**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Justify your evidence by writing **at least two** sentences that explain why the quote you chose from the piece of literature supports your premise and your claim.

Justification Sentence #1 (connect your evidence to your premise)

_____

_____

_____

_____

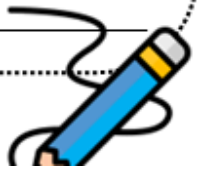
Justification Sentence #2 (connect your evidence to your claim)

_____

_____

_____

_____



****Everything on this page goes in Body Paragraph #1.***

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name _____ Date _____

Body Paragraph #2



Write **the reason (premise)** for your claim.

(INDENT) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Introduce your evidence and include a **quote** from the text that supports your premise. Don't forget quotation marks.
**Challenge yourself: add background information and "set the scene" for the quote.*

Circle one: **According to the text, The author states, The author writes, According to the author,**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Justify your evidence by writing **at least two** sentences that explain why the quote you chose from the piece of literature supports your premise and your claim.

Justification Sentence #1 (connect your evidence to your premise)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Justification Sentence #2 (connect your evidence to your claim)

_____

_____

_____

_____



****Everything on this page goes in Body Paragraph #2.***

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name _____ Date _____

Body Paragraph #3



Write **the reason (premise)** for your claim.

(INDENT) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Introduce your evidence and include a **quote** from the text that supports your premise. Don't forget quotation marks.
**Challenge yourself: add background information and "set the scene" for the quote.*

Circle one: **According to the text, The author states, The author writes, According to the author,**

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Justify your evidence by writing **at least two** sentences that explain why the quote you chose from the piece of literature supports your premise and your claim.

Justification Sentence #1 (connect your evidence to your premise)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Justification Sentence #2 (connect your evidence to your claim)

_____

_____

_____

_____



***Everything on this page goes in Body Paragraph #3.*

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name _____ Date _____

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Conclusion Paragraph





Use a **transition word** to show the reader they have arrived at your conclusion, and then **restate your claim**, using different words than your original claim.

Circle one: **In conclusion,** **Thus,** **In the end,** **To conclude,** **Finally,**

Restate your premises. Don't introduce any new evidence here. Simply point out one more time that your premises support your claim.

Write a **"mic drop" sentence** that offers the reader some final insight (e.g., a lesson learned).



***Everything on this page goes in your conclusion paragraph.**

Essay 

Handwrite your final draft after you complete the Response to Literature Graphic Organizer.

You may write your essay here or attach a lined sheet of paper to this packet.

Be sure to write legibly, and check your spelling, punctuation, and grammar. You should use transition words and rich language in your final draft of the essay. Essays should be handwritten.

Summer Book Challenge One-Pager



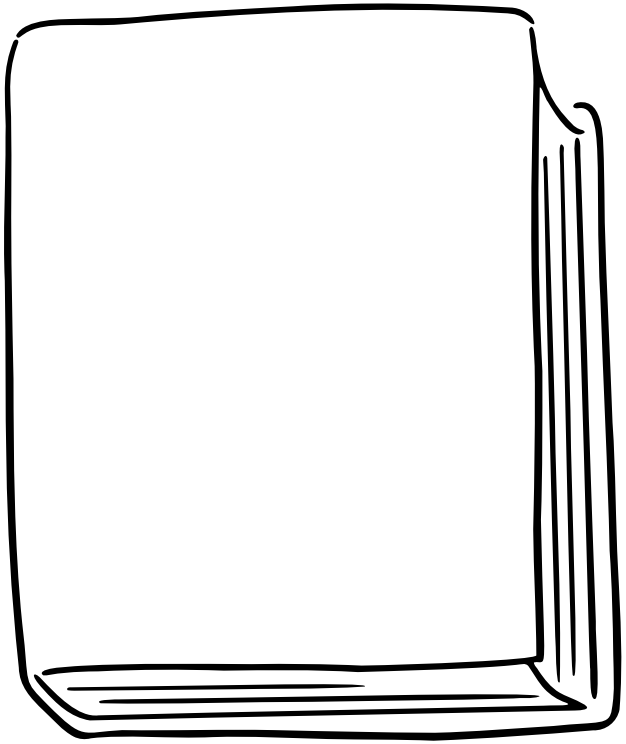
Please complete one for every book you read!
This document is also available digitally on the school website

Name:
Book Title & Author:

Review-- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

Summary-- Who was the main character? What is the setting? What happened? What did the characters have to overcome? How were the problems resolved by the end? Etc.
(minimum one paragraph--use the back of this page if necessary)

Book Cover, reimagined:



Rating:



Start Date:
Finish Date:
Parent Signature: