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.

8th 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.

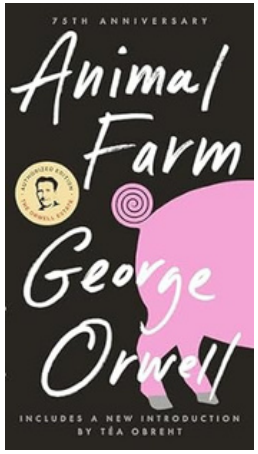
*From **The Kite Runner**,* Khaled Hosseini

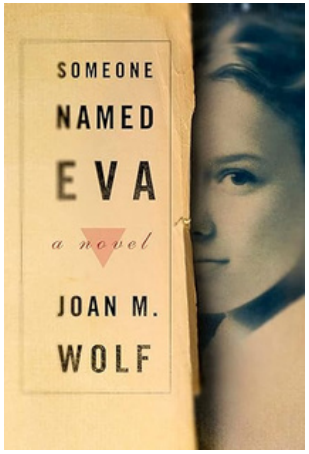
Each entry should include a quote, the page number on which it is found, and a two-to-three sentence analysis of why the quote is significant. For example, the quote might capture a key moment within the plot, reveal the personality of a major character, or include well-crafted figurative language or 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 8th Grade Summer Book List

Animal Farm
by George Orwell
"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

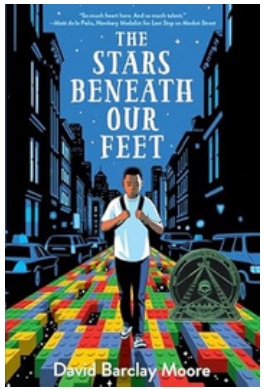
A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned—a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible.

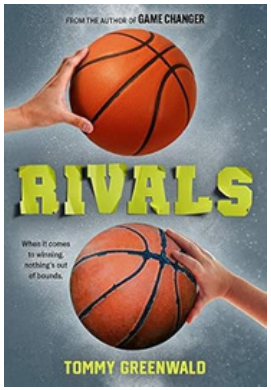




Someone Named Eva
by Joan Wolf
A gripping tale of one girl's struggle against the Nazis. "Remember who you are, Milada." Milada's grandmother says these words on the night the Nazi soldiers come to their home in Czechoslovakia. But what do they mean? She is Milada, who lives with her mama and papa, her brother and sister, and her beloved Babichka. Milada with the sun-kissed hair, eleven years old, fastest runner in her school. How could she ever forget?
Then the Nazis send Milada to a Lebensborn center in Poland, and Milada quickly discovers that holding on to her true identity will be the greatest struggle of her young life.

The Stars Beneath our Feet
by David Barclay Moore
A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death in this outstanding debut novel that celebrates community and creativity.
It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward.



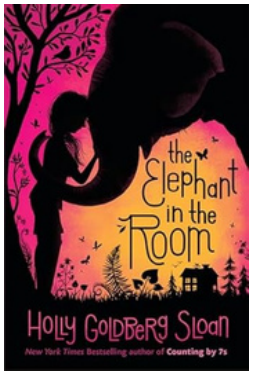


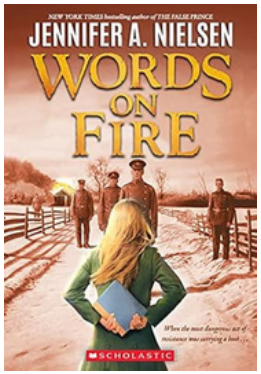
Rivals
by Tommy Greenwald
The people of Walthorne love their basketball—and one of the things they love most is the special rivalry between the Walthorne North and the Walthorne South. As the season begins, two star players are feeling the heat: Austin Chambers, captain of Walthorne North, worries that he's not good enough to live up to his father's legacy, while across town, the brilliantly talented Carter Haswell, captain of Walthorne South, is already under pressure to get a scholarship that might ease his family's financial stress. While both boys do whatever they can to make sure their team wins, Alfie Jenks, a school sports reporter, discovers that behind-the-scenes scandals are just as much a part of youth sports as on-the-court action.

2025 8th Grade Summer Book List

The Elephant in the Room
by Holly Sloan

It's been almost a year since Sila's mother traveled halfway around the world to Turkey, hoping to secure the immigration paperwork that would allow her to return to her family in the United States. The long separation is almost impossible for Sila to withstand. But things change when Sila accompanies her father (who is a mechanic) outside their Oregon town to fix a truck. There, behind an enormous stone wall, she meets a grandfatherly man who only months before won the state lottery. Their new alliance leads to the rescue of a circus elephant named Veda, and then to a friendship with an unusual boy named Mateo, proving that comfort and hope come in the most unlikely of places.



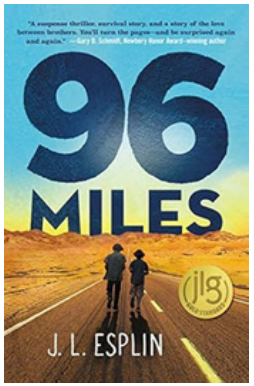


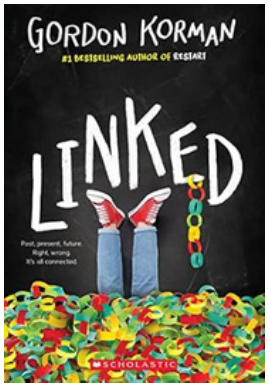
Words on Fire
by Jennifer Nielsen

Danger is never far from Audra's family farm in Lithuania. She always avoids the occupying Russian Cossack soldiers, who insist that everyone must become Russian -- they have banned Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language. But Audra knows her parents are involved in something secret and perilous. In June 1893, when Cossacks arrive abruptly at their door, Audra's parents insist that she flee, taking with her an important package and instructions for where to deliver it. But escape means abandoning her parents to a terrible fate. As Audra embarks on a journey to deliver the mysterious package, she faces unimaginable risks.

96 Miles
by J.L. Esplin

21 days without power. Two brothers on a desperate trek. 72 hours before time runs out... The Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. Their dad, a hardcore believer in self-reliance, has stockpiled enough food and water at their isolated Nevada home to last for months. But when they are robbed of all their supplies during a massive blackout while their dad is out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help. Along the way, they're forced to question their dad's insistence on self-reliance and ask just what it is that we owe to our neighbors, to our kin, and to ourselves.





Linked
by Gordon Korman

Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing? Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further.

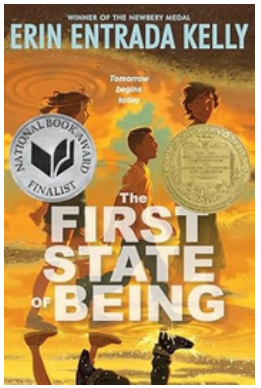
2025 8th Grade Summer Book List



Heroes
by Alan Gratz

December 6, 1941: Best friends Frank and Stanley have it good. With their dads stationed at the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii, the boys get to soak up the sunshine while writing and drawing their own comic books. World War II might be raging overseas, but so far America has stayed out of the fight. There's nothing to fear, right? December 7th, 1941: Everything implodes. Frank and Stanley are touring a battleship when Japanese planes zoom overhead, dropping bomb after bomb. As explosions roar and sailors scream, Frank and Stanley realize the unthinkable is happening: Japan is attacking America! The war has come to them.





The First State of Being
by Erin Kelly

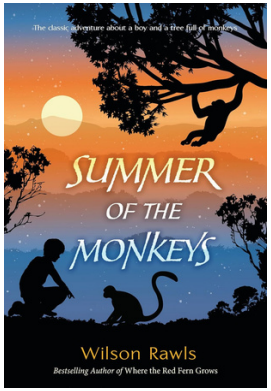
It's August 1999. For twelve-year-old Michael Rosario, life at Fox Run Apartments in Red Knot, Delaware, is as ordinary as ever—except for the looming Y2K crisis and his overwhelming crush on his sixteen-year-old babysitter, Gibby. But when a disoriented teenage boy named Ridge appears out of nowhere, Michael discovers there is more to life than stockpiling supplies and pining over Gibby. Michael wants—no, *needs*—to get his hands on that book. How else can he prepare for the future? But how far is he willing to go to get it?

Mid-Air
by Alicia D. Williams

A tender-souled boy reeling from the death of his best friend struggles to fit into a world that wants him to grow up tough and unfeeling in this stunning illustrated middle grade novel in verse “full of vulnerability and hope”

It’s the last few months of eighth grade, and Isaiah feels lost. He thought his summer was going to be him and his boys Drew and Darius, hanging out, doing wheelies, watching martial arts movies, and breaking tons of Guinness World Records before high school. But now, more and more, Drew seems to be fading from their friendship, and though he won’t admit it, Isaiah knows exactly why. Because Darius is...gone.





Summer of the Monkeys
by Wilson Rawls

The last thing fourteen-year-old Jay Berry Lee expects to find while trekking through the Ozark Mountains of Oklahoma is a tree full of monkeys. But then Jay learns from his grandpa that the monkeys have escaped from a traveling circus, and there’s a big reward for the person who finds and returns them.

His family could really use the money, so Jay sets off, determined to catch them. But by the end of the summer, Jay will have learned a lot more than he bargained for—and not just about monkeys.

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) _____

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

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

Name _____ Date _____

Body Paragraph #1



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

(INDENT) _____

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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,**

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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)

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

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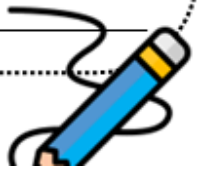

****Everything on this page goes in Body Paragraph #1.***

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name _____ Date _____

Body Paragraph #2



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

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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,**

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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)

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

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****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) _____

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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,**

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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)

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

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***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



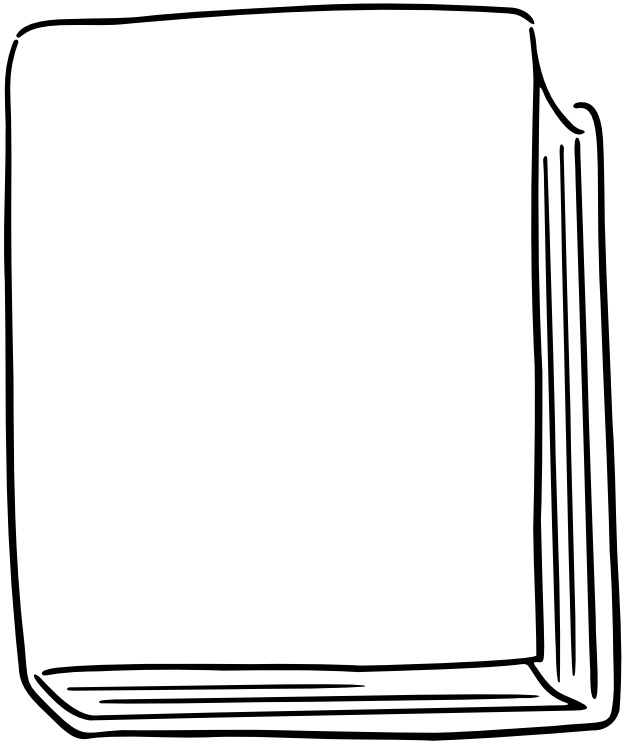
Please complete one for every book you read!
This document is also available digitally on the school website

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: