



Cambridge Public Schools, Grades 6-8

2026 Summer Reading

Program Overview

- Cambridge Public Schools encourage all incoming middle school students to read for at least 20 minutes each day or 2.5 hours a week during the summer and record their reading on a reading log (below). In total, students should read *at least* 5 books over the summer.
- Students are expected to read one of the grade level books provided by CPS (see page 2), plus four books of their choice. Students are encouraged to read both fiction and nonfiction, and to visit the Cambridge Public Library to help choose books.
- In the fall, students will complete an assignment about their grade level book.
- Students should be able to discuss *any* of the books on their book log with a teacher.

Program Goals

- Celebrate reading and books school-wide and district-wide.
- Build background knowledge and connections to Grade Level ELA themes.
- Continue to build students' interest and stamina as readers by providing clear expectations and structures that support students' reading during the summer.

2026 Summer Reading Log

Book Title and Author	Would you recommend it? Yes, No, Why?

All students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades must choose ONE book from their grade level list below. Schools will provide a copy of the books to all students in June, and students should be prepared to complete an assignment sometime in the first week of school.

Incoming Grade 6 (Coming of Age)

- *Clean Getaway*, Nic Stone
- *The First Rule of Punk*, Celia C. Perez
- *Fish in a Tree*, Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Once Upon an Eid*, S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed
- *One Crazy Summer*, Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Mexikid* (A Graphic Novel), Pedro Martin
- *Roll With It*, Jamie Sumner
- *To Night Owl From Dogfish*, Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

Incoming Grade 7 (Belonging)

- *Enrique's Journey* (Young Adult Adaptation: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother, Sonia Nazario
- *Inside Out and Back Again*, Thanhha Lai
- *Kareem Between*, Shifa Saltagi Safadi
- *Outcasts United*, Warren St. John
- *Out of My Mind*, Sharon Draper
- *School Trip* (A Graphic Novel), Jerry Craft
- **You Bring the Distant Near*, Mitali Perkins

Incoming Grade 8 (How does power influence human behavior?)

- *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Universe*, Benjamin Alire Sáenz
- *Black Brother, Black Brother*, Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak
- **Divergent*, Veronica Roth
- *A Good Kind of Trouble*, Lisa Moore Ramee
- **The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds
- *White Bird: A Wonder Story* (A Graphic Novel), R. J. Palacio

*Contains mature themes