Summer Reading Assignment
Incoming 8th Grade
Summer 2026

Incoming 8th-grade students are expected to **read two books** and **complete an assignment for each book** over the summer for their English class: a Response to Reading assignment for **one book of fiction** and **one book of nonfiction**. *Nota Bene: Academic+* students also have an additional assignment: to read John Steinbeck's *The Pearl* and complete the study guide.

Response to Reading

Read one work of fiction and one work of nonfiction from the following list. Complete a **Character Analysis** or **Story Map** for the work of fiction and an **Infographic** for the work of nonfiction that you choose. If you would like to read a book not on this list, please contact glay@st-anne.org for approval before reading.

8th Grade Summer Reading List

Fiction:

Watership Down, by Richard Adams
Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott
The Crossover, by Kwame Alexander
The Door Within, by Wayne Batson
The Benefits of Being an Octopus, by Ann Braden
The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins
Face on the Milk Carton, by Caroline B. Cooney
The Boggart, by Susan Cooper
The Grey King, by Susan Cooper
Audacity, by Melanie Crowder
Blended, by Sharon M. Draper
The Wild Book, by Margarita Engle
Mockingbird, by Kathryn Erskine
The House of the Scorpion, by Nancy Farmer
Bull Run, by Paul Fleischman
Shadow Spinner, by Susan Fletcher
The Inquisitor's Tale, by Adam Gidwitz
Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Greene
M.C. Higgins, the Great, by Virginia Hamilton
The Lie Tree, by Frances Hardinge
Alex Rider, by Anthony Horowitz
Across Five Aprils, by Irene Hunt
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder, by Holly Jackson
Good Girl, Bad Blood, by Holly Jackson
Kill Joy, by Holly Jackson
Five Survive, by Holly Jackson
The Acorn People, by Ron Jones
Inside Out and Back Again, by Thanhha Lai
Day of Tears: A Novel in Disguise, by Julius Lester
Gathering Blue, by Lois Lowry
Fish Girl, by Donna Jo Napoli
Bloom, by Kenneth Oppel
Jacob Have I Loved, by Katherine Paterson
Maximum Ride, by James Patterson
The Read Pencil, by Andrea Davis Pinkney
The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin
Divergent, by Veronica Roth
Between Shades of Gray, by Ruta Sepetys
I Must Betray You, by Ruta Sepetys
The Hired Girl, by Laura Amy Schlitz
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor
The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien
The Real Boy, by Anne Ursu
Paperboy, by Vince Vawter
Dicey's Song, by Cynthia Voigt
Deathwatch, by Robb White
American Born Chinese, by Gene Yang
Saints, by Gene Yang
Boxers, by Gene Yang
The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak
The Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Nonfiction:

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners, by Marc Aronson
Balcony on the Moon, by Ibtisam Barakat
Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood, by Ibtisam Barakat
Terrible Typhoid Mary, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Tommy: The Gun That Changed America, by Karen Blumenthal
Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans, by Don Brown
The Great American Dust Bowl, by Don Brown
Seeds, by Nancy Castaldo
Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings, by Margarita Engle
The Wild Book, by Margarita Engle
Eyes Wide Open, by Paul Fleischman
Norse Mythology, by Neil Gaiman
The Distance Between Us: Young Reader's Edition, by Reyna Grande
Making Mavericks, by Frosty Hesson and Ian Spiegelman
Vincent Van Gogh: The Portrait of an Artist, by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan
Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes, by Juan Felipe Herrera
The Boy Who Challenged Hitler, by Phillip Hoose
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Reader's Edition, by William Kamkwamba
Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, by Tracy Kidder
Dear Miss Breed, by Joanne Oppenheim
The Omnivore's Dilemma, by Michael Pollan
Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food, by Eric Schlosser
Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War, by Steve Sheinkin
The Port Chicago 50, by Steve Sheinkin
Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team, by Steve Sheinkin
Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon, by Steve Sheinkin
Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson
Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story, by Caren Stelson
Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White, by Melissa Sweet
No Crystal Stair: Life of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller, by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Unbroken, by Laura Hillenbrand
Who Was First: Discovering the Americas, by Russell Freedman

Directions:

1. Log in to your St. Anne Google Drive account.
2. Click on the link for the assignment you want to complete:
   Fiction: Character Analysis or Story Map or Nonfiction: Infographic
3. When the view-only document appears, click on "File" and then on "Make a Copy."
4. Rename the copy with your name and the assignment's name. (ex. Ima Student Story Map)
5. Complete the assignment based on the instructions at the top of the slide.
6. When you are ready to submit, click the yellow "Share" button at the top right of the screen. Share it with glay@st-anne.org. Be sure to allow commenting.
7. Academic+ students only:
   - Print out
   - Read *The Pearl*, self-annotate in preparation for an essay, and complete the close-reading questions as you read the novella. You will turn in a hard copy or share a Google doc of your completed study guide to Mr. Lay on **the first day** of school.

If you are unable to access the files or submit through Google Drive, please email glay@st-anne.org for assistance.