Maret Summer Reading 2026: Rising 8th grade

Best Practices:

- Read to relax and explore new things over the summer.
- Read or listen to print books, eBooks, and audiobooks for at least **20 minutes** per day.
- Read beyond the requirements this summer to discover more books to enjoy.



Sora:

- Use Sora to access Maret's digital book collection
- Link your Maret Sora account to DC Public Library to access more books
- Visit the library website to learn more

English 8 Required Reading: READ ALL THREE

We will actively use **all three books** during the school year.

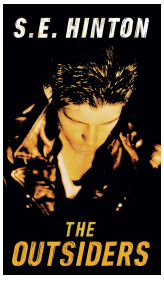
1) ***The Odyssey*** **by Gareth Hinds** (this is a **graphic novel**; ISBN: 9780763642686)



2) ***Miles Morales: Spider-Man*** by Jason Reynolds (ISBN: 9781484788509)

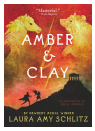


3) ***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton (ISBN: 9780140385724)



History 8 Required Reading: CHOOSE ONE

All seven of these books draw upon the mythology of a particular culture or cultures, either to tell a new story or a new version of an older one. **We will actively use this book/reading during the school year.**

Title, Creator, Format	Overview
 *Children of Blood and Bone+* by Tomi Adeyemi	Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Danger lurks in Orïsha, yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy. (West African)
 *Thousand Steps into Night* by Traci Chee	In the realm of Awara, where gods, monsters, and humans exist side by side, Miuko is an ordinary girl living as an innkeeper's daughter. But when she is cursed and begins to transform into a demon, she embarks on a quest to reverse the curse and return to her normal life. (Japanese)
 *Amber & Clay* by Laura Amy Schlitz	By the time Melisto and Rhaskos meet, one of them is a ghost. But the thin line between life and death is just one boundary their unlikely friendship crosses. Snarky gods and fearsome goddesses, slaves and masters, and mothers and philosophers all shape their story. (Greek)
 *The Monstrous Child* by Francesca Simon	Hel is an ordinary teenager—and goddess of the Underworld. She wants to know why life is so unfair! She tries to make the best of it, creating gleaming halls in her dark kingdom and welcoming the dead, whom she is forced to host for eternity. Until eternity itself is threatened. (Norse)
 *The Chaos of the Stars* by Kiersten White	Isadora is the human daughter of the Egyptian gods Isis and Osiris—so her family life is complicated! When she gets the chance to move to California with her brother, she jumps on it—but quickly learns there's no such thing as a clean break from family. (Egyptian)
 *The Summer of the Mariposa* by Guadalupe García McCall	When Odilia and her four sisters find a dead body in the swimming hole, they embark on a hero's journey to return the dead man to his family in Mexico. But returning home to Texas turns into an odyssey that would rival Homer's original tale. (Mexican/Aztec)
 *Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger	Elatsoe lives in an America shaped by the magic, monsters, knowledge, and legends of its peoples, both Indigenous and not. She can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her family. When her beloved cousin is murdered, she will rely on her wits, skills, and friends to protect her family. (Lipan Apache)

History 8 Suggested Viewing: Watch the following series.

We recommend watching as a family and using the family engagement questions below to discuss. These three episodes are appropriate for the entire family.

Title, Creator, Format	Overview
First Civilizations Episode 2: Religion Episode 3: Cities Episode 4: Trade	Explore the seedbed civilizations of Mesoamerica, Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley to learn how and why humans—who had lived successfully as mobile foragers for millennia—created villages, towns, cities, and kingdoms, establishing the blueprint for the modern world. The purpose of this suggested viewing is to provide students with important historical context for the material they will study in 8th grade. (Available on Amazon and PBS)
Family Engagement	**Guiding Questions**
• Watch the series as a family • Use the guiding questions for discussions	Religion: What is the role of religion in civilizations past and present? Cities: Why were cities so important to the rise of civilization? Trade: How has trade helped and harmed civilization?