

Rising Honors 8 ELA Summer Reading Project

1. Select and read at least one book from the [2026-2027 South Carolina Young Adult Book Awards](#).

****Note for Parents and Students:** School of the Arts recognizes that all readers need a variety of books from which to choose. Some books may contain mature subject matter. We encourage parents to have conversations with their child about book choices. Use this website to help you determine which book(s) meet your standards.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>.

2. Respond thoroughly to the questions below **in five sentences or more**. *See questions below*

3. Complete the Summer Reading Log.

4. Create an original book cover.

Book Cover Instructions

Students will design their own book cover for their summer reading. The design should be original and should reflect the **themes** as well as the events of the story.

Requirements:

- 1.) Book cover size should be the size of basic copy paper 8 ½ x 11
- 2.) Use the whole page
- 3.) The design **MUST** be original
- 4.) Must include the author and title
- 5.) On the back include three quotes that express the book’s **theme**.
- 6.) Your grade will be based on apparent effort, **not** on your ability to draw.

Book Title: Tristan Strong Punches A Hole In The Sky Author: Kwame Mbalia

Directions: Thoroughly and in 5 sentences or more, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Describe the main character(s) in detail. Find examples of textual evidence from the book (including page #s).

Tristan is a 13 year-old up-and-coming boxer, who is going through the loss of his best friend, Eddie. On page 22 it reads: “Tristan Strong!” my dad yelled from down the hall. I hated that name. It made me appear to be something I’m not. My name should have been Tristan Coward, or Tristan Failure, or Tristan Fake. Maybe Tristan How-Could-You-Lose-Your-First-Boxing-Match. Anything but Tristan Strong.

Describe the setting of the book. Find examples of textual evidence from the book (include page #s).

There are two settings. At first Tristian is in Chicago with his Grandparents. Then he is in Alke. Where the African Americans gods live. Pg 89 says “You don’t know the Alke territories”?

Describe the main conflict of the story. Find examples of textual evidence from the book (include page #s).

There is a war against an evil haint who is terrorizing the land. Pg 95 says, "We are being hunted".

What ideas does the author want us to think about? Find examples of textual evidence from the book (page #s).

Teamwork makes the dream work. There is no specific page saying that. Tristan works with all sorts of people to get the job done.