Summer Reading
Incoming 7th and 8th Grade
Cohasset Middle School
2026

1. **Choose books that genuinely interest you.**

All incoming CMS students are encouraged to read as much as possible this summer and can choose their own books. Reading can include a physical book, an audio book, or an e-book. If you are having a hard time finding books to read, your middle school teachers have created a list of our favorite middle school books by genre.

2. **Take notes.**

Please annotate the book if you own it or use sticky notes for your annotations if it's a library, e-book, or audio book. Mrs. Matthews, CMS Reading and Literacy Specialist, created a bookmark to help you with your annotations (attached).

3. **Try new reading experiences.**

Check out the BINGO card for a variety of summer reading experiences and challenge yourself to complete as many as possible.

Students often wonder why they need to read during their summer break. **Here are some reasons why your teachers encourage summer reading:**

1. Reading can be fun and relaxing.
2. Reading can be social - something you can discuss with your friends and family. Form a book group and talk about what's happening in your book or discuss your favorite characters. Ask other members of your family to read the same book or listen to the same audio book on a long car ride. Discussing literature deepens connections between people.
3. Students who don't read over the summer lose progress in literacy skills, something teachers call the "summer slide." When students lose progress on what they've learned during the school year, it makes the transition back to school even harder in September.
4. Research shows that reading is a safe way for young adults to experience diverse perspectives, expand vocabulary for complex feelings, and practice thinking deeply about life. Reading builds empathy and is good for your emotional intelligence.

📚 Summer Reading BINGO 📚

Complete 5 in a row — across, down, or diagonal — to get BINGO! • Check the box when you finish each activity.

B	I	N	G	O
🎬 Read the book, then watched the movie ☐	👫 Read a book with a family member ☐	🎧 Listened to an audiobook on a long car ride ☐	💬 Attended a book group discussion with kids my age ☐	🏕️ Read at camp ☐
🏖️ Read at the beach ☐	⏱️ Read for 30 minutes straight without stopping ☐	🌙 Read past your bedtime (just this once!) ☐	🖍️ Wrote a review of a book you loved ☐	📖 Read a book recommended by a friend ☐
🗺️ Read a book set in another country ☐	👽 Read a sci-fi or fantasy book ☐	⭐ **FREESPACE** ☐	🕰️ Read a book published before you were born ☐	💡 Read a nonfiction book about something you're curious about ☐
📚 Visited the library and picked a book at random ☐	📱 Read an e-book or used a reading app ☐	💬 Found a quote in a book you wrote down to keep ☐	😂 Read a book that made you laugh out loud ☐	🔍 Read a mystery or thriller that kept you guessing ☐
❤️‍🩹 Reread a childhood favorite ☐	🎵 Read a book and listened to its soundtrack or playlist ☐	🤝 Swapped books with a friend ☐	🪶 Read poetry or a graphic novel ☐	🌧️ Read on a rainy day curled up inside ☐

Name: _____ Date: _____

CMS Summer Reading Book Suggestions	
Nonfiction	
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank 🏀 *Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation)* by Laura Hillenbrand 🏀 *The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation)* by Daniel James Brown *The Finest Hours* by Michael J. Tougias & Casey Sherman	*Just Mercy* (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Bryan Stevenson *Defiant: Growing up in the Jim Crow South* by Wade Hudson *Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge (Young Reader's Edition)* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar 🏀 *Shoe Dog (Young Readers Edition)* by Phil Knight
Historical Fiction	
Any Alan Gratz book! ❤️ *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley 🌎 🇨🇦 *Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzi	❤️ *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk ❤️ *Towers Falling* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Realistic Fiction	
🏀 *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds ❤️ *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Greene ❤️ *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 🏀 *Black Brother, Black Brother* by	🇨🇦 *The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas ❤️ *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt 🏀 Any Mike Lupica book!

Jewell Parker Rhodes	❤️ *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds
Romantic Comedy	
Rebel with a Donut by Chrissy Q. Martin 🎶 *Better than the Movies** by Lynn Painter	*Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum
Fantasy	
The Hobbit by J.R. Tolkien *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate	*To Catch a Tiger* by Tae Keller
Science Fiction / *Dystopian*	
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer*	*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins *Uglies** by Scott Westerfeld *Legend* by Marie Ly
Mystery/Thriller	
Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings *One of Us is Lying** by Karen McManus *Hoot* by Carl Hiassen 🌎 📫 *Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday* by Natalie C. Anderson	*It Wasn't Me* by Dana Alison Levy *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
Poetry/Novels Written in Verse	
🏀 *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander	❤️ *Brown Girl Dreaming** by

🌎 🎶 *Solo* by Kwame Alexander 🌎 *White Rose* by Kip Wilson	Jacqueline Woodson 🏀 *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander
Graphic Novels	
🌎 *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys*	🌎 *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohammed
Survival	
🌎 *Peak* by Roland Smith 📢 *Playing with Fire* by April Henry *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen 📢 *Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz	🏀 *Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Rescue* by Marc Aronson *The Finest Hours* by Michael J. Tougias & Casey Sherman 📢 ❤️ *Refugee* by Alan Gratz

*Mature content - ages 12+

🏀	Recommended for our sports fans!
❤️	Recommended for anyone looking to feel some feelings!
🌎	Recommended for anyone interested in reading a book with a setting that is outside of the U.S.!
📢	Recommended for anyone interested in reading about current, real-life issues!
🎶	Recommended for our musicians or music fans!

Book Marks with Potential Annotations

Fiction

Potential Annotations

Annotation Options: Choose 3 or more (listed below) when reading your fiction text!

- A word (character's name, action verb, setting etc.)
- A phrase (part of dialogue, transitional/intro phrase, fragment)
- A sentence (of description, dialogue, character's internal thoughts etc.)
- A character's internal thoughts/feelings
- A prediction
- An earlier moment from the text that I thought of at this moment
- A mirror (a connection I can relate to)
- A window (being **un**able to relate/outsider looking in)
- A big reveal moment
- A question/wondering you have
- A hint/clue that makes me infer
- A confusing moment
- A word/phrase that I didn't know
- An image I had in my head

Nonfiction

Potential Annotations

Annotation Options: Choose 3 or more (listed below) when reading your nonfiction text!

- A word (key name, topic, date, time, stat, location, vocab/content specific word, proper noun etc.)
- An "SSD" (significant supporting detail sentence about the topic)
- Direct Quotes (from or about the topic/subject)
- An opinion
- First Hand Account/Primary Source Artifacts/Documents/Inserts
- Pictures/Captions
- Charts/Tables/Maps
- An inference that I can make
- A lightbulb/"aha" moment
- A mirror (a connection I can relate to)
- A window (being unable to relate/outsider looking in)
- A question/wondering I have
- A topic specific word/phrase that I didn't know

• Something revealing the AUTHOR's style, perspective, intentions	• Something revealing the AUTHOR's bias/perspective, background