

Divine Child Eighth Grade Summer Reading Expectations

Reading during the summer...

- -Builds vocabulary
- -Models quality sentence structure
- -Improves writing
- -Increases reading stamina
- -Prevents a decline in reading level



⇒ According to Johns Hopkins University, the effects of summer learning loss can result in nearly a three-month loss in grade-level equivalency in math and a two-month loss in grade-level equivalency in reading. In order to close the summer learning loss gap in reading, middle school students will be expected to read one novel before they return in the fall. Below are the expectations for literacy. Thank you so much for supporting your child's development through summer learning.

Why Read 20 Minutes At Home?

Student A Reads...	Student B Reads...	Student C Reads...
• 20 minutes per day	• 5 minutes per day	• 1 minutes per day
• 3,600 minutes per school year	• 900 minutes per school year	• 180 minutes per school year
• 1,800,000 words per year	• 282,000 words per year	• 8,000 words per year
Scores in the 90 on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50 on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10 on standardized tests.
If they start reading in Kindergarten, by the end of Grade 6 the student will have read...		
60 school days	12 school days	3 school days

Want to be a better reader? Read every day!

What will you read? Only one book is required

Required Summer Reading Novel: PICK ONE

If you use an audiobook, please make sure you are looking at the pages online while listening to the story

Touching Spirit Bear Ben Mikaelson

Number the Stars: Lois Lowry

Where The Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

Paperback Novel: If you're reading your own novel, please annotate as you go. That means jotting notes in the margins to show your thinking—just like you did in 7th grade ELA. Mark anything that stands out to you, surprises you, confuses you, or makes you wonder.

Audiobook or Library Book: If you're listening to an audiobook or using a library book, write your notes on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to label the chapter and page numbers as you go. You'll be able to use this paper when we do the assessment back at school. This helps you stay engaged and understand the story more deeply.

Create a Journal/Use sticky notes to summarize each chapter. That information will be helpful for the assessment during the second week of the school year. **You should have a summary paragraph at the end of each chapter.**

Ideas for Annotating:

- *Circle key concepts and phrases.*
- *Write brief comments and questions in the margins.*
- *Highlight/underline interesting words or phrases.*

This novel will be assessed when you return to school. Please have it read by Tuesday, September 8, 2026

I encourage you to read more than one book over the summer. IF you choose your own novel, please make sure it is at your level (Lexile Level Grade level appropriate). Attempt a new genre and see if you find something new to enjoy!

Please do not read the following books which may be used in class.

- **The Giver by Lois Lowry**
- **The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton**
- **Frankenstein Mary Shelley**
- **Romeo and Juliet- Shakespeare**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ ADDITIONAL BOOKS AFTER FINISHING ONE OF THE ABOVE NOVELS, this is a generic list of novels by Lexile level. Students have a general idea of what Lexile they have based on STAR testing. The goal is to find a novel that interests the student, so please just use this as one resource. I have attached below a list of places to find free resources for novels.

 Copy of Summer Resources for Books

		Grave Mercy	850L	The Other Wes Moore	990L
		The Woman in Cabin 10	880	Warriors Don't Cry	1000L
		The Pigman	880L	I Am Malala	1000L
		Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	920L	The Glass Castle	1010L
		Freak the Mighty	930L	Fatal Fever	1010L
		The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie	960L	Quiet Power	1020L
		Fallen Grace	1130L	Rhythm Rider	1030L
		The Alchemist	1130L	Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World	1090
		Kite Runner			