

Honors ELA Summer Reading for Rising 7th and 8th Grades

You're first job is to choose a book. All are available through the library, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble.

The Trouble with Heroes will be available in paperback on July 7, 2026.

Are you going into seventh grade? Your choices are:

The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner OR

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Are you going into eighth grade? Your choices are:

The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner OR

We Beat the Street by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Sharon Draper

You will submit a one-pager as evidence of your completion of the reading. It's easy to Google examples.

You'll use the menu below to choose the elements you will include.

The assignment is to be hand-drawn and hand-written. Digitally produced pages will not be accepted. You'll use an 8 1/2 x 11 -inch or 11 x 17 -inch piece of paper.

All submissions must include:

- A page filled with color and text. There should be no blank, white space.
- The title and author of the book with which you're working.
- A border that represents the theme(s) you identify within the text.
- A central image that represents at least one of the book's main ideas or themes. Surround with or wind through the image a powerful quote that best exemplifies this main idea or theme.

Now, choose five questions to answer.

You'll answer by adding an element - a drawn image or piece of work art - along with a quote that supports your choice, to your one-pager. When you have finished, your central image and the related images or pieces of word art you use to answer the questions, should create one, cohesive whole that represents the ideas and themes of your book. On the back of your page, along with your name, write the numbers of the questions you have chosen.

1. What patterns of behavior are causing the protagonist(s) to struggle?
2. What forces are at work, trying to prevent character growth and change?
3. How has the setting created conflict in the story?
4. Have the characters' interactions with the school and justice systems been fair? What is that impact?
5. What images, ideas, or phrases appeared again and again in the story?
6. How has a change in a character's patterns of behavior reflected that character's growth?
7. What Aha! Moments has a character experienced? What is its impact?
8. How have the events in the story impacted the characters' understanding of right and wrong?
9. What important information has the author chosen not to give you? How does that impact you, the reader? (Okay, there won't be a quote for this. Explain in two or three sentences.)
10. What rule(s) - written or unwritten - has the character broken to break free of old habits and build a new self?

Standard ELA Summer Reading for All Standard Students

You're first job is to choose a book. All are available through the library, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble.

The Trouble with Heroes will be available in paperback on July 7, 2026.

Are you going into sixth or seventh grade? Your choices are:

The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner OR

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Are you going into eighth grade? Your choices are:

The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner OR

We Beat the Street by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Sharon Draper

You will submit a one-pager as evidence of your completion of the reading.

We've included a template to help you organize your work. The directions for each section is below.

The assignment is to be hand-drawn and hand-written. *Digitally produced pages will not be accepted..*

All submissions must include:

- A page filled with color and text. There should be no blank, white space.
- The title and author of the book with which you're working.
- Your name on the back of the page.

How to Complete the Boxes:

1. Write your name on the back.
2. **Between the bottom border and the bottom of the page**, neatly write the title and author of the book you read.
3. **In the border space**, write words that represent the theme(s) you noticed in the story.
4. **In the center rectangle**, add images and a quote that represent a pivotal moment in the story.
5. **In the top, left rectangle**, add an image and a quote that represents the central character's or characters' motivation and values.
6. **In the top, right rectangle**, add an image and a quote that demonstrates how the setting influences the central character(s).
7. **In the bottom, left rectangle** - add an image and a quote that reveals the change in the central character's or characters' point of view.
8. **In the bottom, right rectangle** - Artfully write some powerful or loaded language you noticed in the book. Around it, write the impact of that language on the characters.

Honors ELA Summer Reading for Rising 6th Grade Students

Your first job is to choose a book. All are available through the library, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble.

The Trouble with Heroes will be available in paperback on July 7, 2026.

Your choices are:

The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner OR

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

You will submit a one-pager as evidence of your completion of the reading. It's easy to Google examples.

You'll use the menu below to choose the elements you will include.

The assignment is to be hand-drawn and hand-written. Digitally produced pages will not be accepted. You'll use an 8 ½ x 11 -inch or 11 x 17 -inch piece of paper.

All submissions must include:

- A page filled with color and text. There should be no blank, white space.
- The title and author of the book with which you're working.
- A border that represents the theme(s) you identify within the text.
- A central image that represents at least one of the book's main ideas or themes. Surround with or wind through the image a powerful quote that best exemplifies this main idea or theme.

Now, choose three to five questions to answer.

You'll answer by adding an element - a drawn image or piece of work art - along with a quote that supports your choice, to your one-pager. When you have finished, your central image and the related images or pieces of word art you use to answer the questions, should create one, cohesive whole that represents the ideas and themes of your book. On the back of your page, along with your name, write the numbers of the questions you have chosen.

1. What patterns of behavior are causing the protagonist(s) to struggle?
2. What forces are at work, trying to prevent character growth and change?
3. How has the setting created conflict in the story?
4. Have the characters' interactions with the school and justice systems been fair? What is that impact?
5. What images, ideas, or phrases appeared again and again in the story?
6. How has a change in a character's patterns of behavior reflected that character's growth?
7. What Aha! Moments has a character experienced? What is its impact?
8. How have the events in the story impacted the characters' understanding of right and wrong?
9. What important information has the author chosen not to give you? How does that impact you, the reader? (Okay, there won't be a quote for this. Explain in two or three sentences.)
10. What rule(s) - written or unwritten - has the character broken to break free of old habits and build a new self?

Grading

Your work is due to your ELA teacher on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. You will need your work to help you prepare for a Socratic Seminar early in the school year. Here's the grading rubric:

1 - Novice	2 - Practitioner	3 - Expert
I have met the basic requirements of the assignment. I can name a theme or main idea from the assigned text. My images and text are indirectly related to the theme or main idea I identified.	I can use varied pieces of evidence taken across the whole text to support a theme or main idea I've noticed in the story. My choices of image and quote directly support that theme or main idea.	I can identify more than one reasonable theme or central idea. I use a variety of evidence taken from the points of view of multiple characters across the length of the text to support my carefully chosen images. My images create a cohesive, whole picture that work together to demonstrate my understanding of the text
