

# Summer Reading 2026 Incoming Grade 8



## Directions:

- For your summer reading, **select any one row (diagonal, vertical, horizontal) that includes the center square TED-ED video.**
- Click the title to access the digital text. Click the genre to access the audio. **NOTE:** Students must be logged into their **Park Ridge Google Accounts in order to access the links.**
- From the **English Dept. Summer Reading webpage**, make sure to **complete ONE graphic organizer per text.**

<a href="#">“Future Tense”</a> by Robert Lipsyte (short story)	<a href="#">“The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver”</a> by Edna St. Vincent Millay (poem)	<a href="#">“Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed”</a> by Ray Bradbury (short story)
<a href="#">“Rain, Rain, Go Away”</a> by Isaac Asimov (short story)	“How Science Fiction Can Help Predict the Future” by Roey Tzezana ( <a href="#">TED-ED video</a> ) <b>(REQUIRED)</b>	<a href="#">“The Walrus and the Carpenter”</a> by Lewis Carroll (poem)
<a href="#">“Jabberwocky”</a> by Lewis Carroll (poem)	<a href="#">“One Ordinary Day, with Peanuts”</a> by Shirley Jackson (short story)	<a href="#">“The Fun They Had”</a> by Isaac Asimov (short story) AND <a href="#">“Key Item”</a> by Isaac Asimov (short story)

## Recommended Titles for Personal Summer Reading for Incoming Grade 8 (optional)

- ***New Kid* (Craft) graphic novel lexile 320**  
Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, *New Kid* is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.
- ***Class Act* (Craft) graphic novel lexile 340**  
Eighth grader Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn't afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted, and to make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids and is finding it hard not to

withdraw, even as their mutual friend Jordan tries to keep their group of friends together.

- ***School Trip (Craft) graphic novel lexile 390***

As Jordan enters his last year of middle school, he receives an acceptance letter from an art school, which is both exciting and nerve-racking for him: he loves art more than anything, but does he really want to be the new kid once again? Jordan and his friends are overjoyed to learn they'll be taking a school trip to Paris, but when they see that Andy the bully will be joining them, they feel deflated and nervous.

- ***Milkweed (Spinelli) lexile 510***

Captures the hardships and cruelty of life in the ghettos of Warsaw during the Nazi occupation of World War II, through the eyes of a Jewish orphan who must use all his wits and courage to survive unimaginable events and circumstances.

- ***The Diary of Pelly D (Adlington) lexile 770***

When Toni V, a construction worker on a futuristic colony, finds the diary of a teenage girl whose life has been turned upside-down by holocaust-like events, he begins to question his own beliefs.

- ***BOMB: the race to build--and steal--the world's most dangerous weapon (Sheinkin) non-fiction lexile 920***

Perfect for middle grade readers, *New York Times* bestselling author Steve Sheinkin presents the fascinating and frightening true story of the creation behind the most destructive force that birthed the arms race and the Cold War.

- ***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children #1 in series (Riggs) lexile 890***

After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering disturbing facts about the children who were kept there. Also available as a graphic novel.

- ***Hollow City: the second novel in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Riggs) lexile 850***

In 1940, Jacob and his new friends escape from Miss Peregrine's island and travel to London where they encounter new allies, a menagerie of peculiar animals, and other unexpected surprises. Also available as a graphic novel.

- ***Four: the Divergent series (Roth) lexile 850***

Told from Tobias's point of view, Four shares details of his transfer from Abnegation to Dauntless, his initiation, and claiming his place in the Dauntless hierarchy.

- ***Look Both Ways: a tale told in ten blocks (Reynolds) lexile 750***

A whimsical exploration of the role detours play in life follows a **group** of students who become so engaged in everyday activities while taking 10 different routes home from school that they fail to notice a school bus that has dropped from the sky.

- ***Two Degrees (Gratz) lexile 770***

When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.

- ***Harry Potter series (Rowling) lexile ranges 880 to 940***

The novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The main story arc concerns Harry's struggle against Lord Voldemort, a dark wizard who intends to become immortal, overthrow the wizard governing body known as the Ministry of Magic and subjugate all wizards and Muggles (non-magical people).

- ***Farewell to Manzanar (Houston) lexile 1040***

During World War II a community called Manzanar was created in the high mountain desert country of California. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese Americans. Among them was the Wakatsuki family, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, who was seven years old when she arrived at Manzanar in 1942, recalls life in the camp through the eyes of the child she was.

- ***Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard (Asgedom) memoir***

This acclaimed memoir tells the unforgettable story of a young boy's journey from a refugee camp in Sudan to Chicago, where his family survived on welfare. Mawi followed his father's advice to "treat people . . . as though they were angels sent from heaven, " and realized his dream of a full-tuition scholarship to Harvard University. Updated with 14 black-and-white photos and a new epilogue.