



2026 Grades 6-8 Summer Reading Assignment

Reading over the summer helps keep your mind sharp and prepares you for the upcoming school year. The summer reading assignment for 2026 requires students to complete a **double-sided entry journal** based on their selected reading. Students who will be in grades 6-8 in the 26-27 school year are required to have their book selection discussed with the current ELA teacher prior to leaving for the summer. There are [book recommendations](#) for students entering sixth grade and seventh grade, however, there is a [required list](#) of choices for students entering **eighth grade**.



The Double-Sided Entry Journal: Format & Instructions

The **Double-Sided Entry Journal** serves as a visual record of your dialogue with the text. The left side captures the "what" of the book through direct text evidence, while the right side facilitates the "why" through your own critical lens. There will be printed copies available, or you may complete this digitally by clicking [here](#) to force a copy of the journal template.

Complete **six** journal entries. For each entry, choose one of the nine reflection categories on the following pages and use it to develop your response in the right-hand column.

While the questions provided on the following pages are designed to help guide your thinking, please feel free to expand upon them. We encourage you to explore your thoughts deeply to demonstrate a high level of engagement with your chosen book.

From the TEXT	From your THINKING
Page # _____ Category: ☐ Memorable Passage ☐ Important Event or Idea ☐ Character Conflict ☐ Theme or Lesson ☐ Character Transformation ☐ Author's Craft/Word Choice ☐ Predictive Inquiry ☐ Symbolism & Objects ☐ Questioning the Text	

Summer Reading Choice Board



Please choose at least six different options from the choice board below to complete your double-sided entry journal. This must be aligned to the summer reading book your ELA teacher has approved. See accompanying guidance that provides greater detail regarding the summer reading assignment.

Memorable Passage

A specific section of text that stands out, evokes strong emotions, or provides insight into a character's motivations

Important Event or Idea

A key moment that develops the plot or characters and connects to real-world issues or other themes in the text

Character Conflict

A struggle highlighted in the text, focusing on how characters respond to it and how it affects the reader

Theme or Lesson

An exploration of what the author is suggesting about human nature, society, or life through the narrative

Character Transformation

An analysis of a character's growth or change and the specific events that caused that shift

Author's Craft/ Word Choice

A focus on the author's use of unique metaphors, powerful verbs, or academic vocabulary to create a specific tone

Predictive Inquiry

An examination of "cliffhangers" or foreshadowing used to make evidence-based guesses about future plot points

Symbolism & Objects

Identifying recurring objects or colors that represent deeper, abstract ideas beyond their literal meaning

Questioning the Text

A specific section of the text that is confusing, surprising, or leaves you feeling curious about a character's choice or a plot point

Journal Entry Categories

As you read, look for text evidence that allows you to respond to the following prompts. You must use at least **six** of these categories for your journal:

- **Memorable Passage:** Look for text that **resonates** deeply with you. What about this specific language or imagery makes it stand out, and how does it impact your experience as a reader?
- **Important Event or Idea:** Identify a **pivotal** plot point or central concept. Why is this moment essential to the narrative, and how does it alter the course of the story?
- **Character Conflict:** Observe the **internal or external struggles** characters face. What does this conflict reveal about the character's values or the obstacles they must overcome?
- **Theme or Lesson:** Extract the **underlying message** or "big idea" the author is conveying. What is the author trying to teach the reader about life or human nature through this text?
- **Character Transformation:** Document how a character **evolves or changes** over time. What specific events triggered this growth, and how is the character different now than they were at the start?
- **Author's Craft/Word Choice:** Analyze the **specific language or stylistic tools** the author employs. Why did the author choose these particular words, and how do they establish the tone or mood of the scene?
- **Predictive Inquiry:** Formulate **educated guesses** about future events based on current evidence. What clues has the author provided, and how do they support your theory on what will happen next?
- **Symbolism & Objects:** Identify items or motifs that **represent deeper meanings**. What does this specific object symbolize within the context of the story, and how does it reinforce the book's themes?
- **Questioning the Text:** Formulate **probing inquiries** about the narrative. What remains unclear or confusing about the characters' choices or the author's intent, and what would you ask the author if given the chance?

Submission and Post-Summer Follow-up

Your completed journal is a vital component of your transition into the new school year and must be submitted during the **first week of school**.

Upon your return, your ELA teacher will use these journals to:

- Conduct individual **reading conferences** to discuss your insights.
- Facilitate **classroom discussions and seminars** based on the connections you recorded.
- Double-entry journals will be scored and students will be asked to **self-assess and reflect** on their reading practices.

We look forward to seeing the results of your hard work and hearing the unique perspectives you bring to our classrooms in the fall!

Name _____ Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Grade Level: _____

[illegible]

