

Summer Reading Assignment

Grades 6–8 Language Arts

Dear Students and Families,

Reading is an important part of keeping our minds active and growing over the summer. All students entering **grades 6–8** are required to complete **summer reading**.

Your Summer Reading Task:

- ✓ Choose and read **ONE book** of your choice over the summer- you may choose any appropriate novel that interests you.
- ✓ You may take notes on the attached graphic organizer while reading to help you remember important details, characters, themes, and events. This is optional.
- ✓ During the **first week of school**, you will complete an assignment connected to the novel you read.

Please choose a book that you have **not already read in Language Arts class**.

The following novels may **NOT** be selected as they may be incorporated into future instruction.

Entering Grade 6 — Do NOT Choose:

- *Holes* by Louis Sachar
 - *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen
 - *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper
 - *Letters from Rifka* by Karen Hesse
 - *Hidden Talents* by David Lubar
 - *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
 - *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
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Entering Grade 7 — Do NOT Choose:

- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling

- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
 - *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen
 - *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
 - *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* by David Lubar
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Entering Grade 8 — Do NOT Choose:

- *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper
 - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
 - *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton
 - *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
 - *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel
 - *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
 - *Unwind* by Neal Schusterman
 - *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
 - *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld
 - *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
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Tips for Choosing a Book:

-  Pick something you will enjoy reading.
-  Choose a book that challenges you and keeps you interested- if you're not enjoying it, put it down and choose another!
-  Yes, graphic novels are novels!

We are excited to hear about the books you chose and discuss your reading experiences when school begins again.

Happy Reading! 

Mr. Pape, Mrs. Rieth, Mrs. Trischitta, Mrs. Ward

Summer Reading Book Suggestions

Rising 6th Graders- Need Help Choosing a Book?

Not sure what to read this summer? Check out these recommendations! These books are similar to novels we have enjoyed in class and include themes such as adventure, history, friendship, courage, imagination, and overcoming challenges. As always, have your parents preview the book to make sure it's a good choice for you!

Remember: You only need to read **ONE book** this summer. These are suggestions — you may choose another appropriate book that interests you.

If You Enjoyed *Thunder Rolling in the Mountains* by Scott O'Dell...

You may like:

- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
A powerful survival story about a young girl who must live alone on an island and find the strength to survive.
 - *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare
A young boy must survive in the wilderness and learns important lessons about friendship and trust.
 - *The Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks
A magical adventure that explores friendship, responsibility, and understanding different cultures.
 - *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich
A historical fiction story about an Ojibwe girl growing up in the 1800s.
 - *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
A young girl must adapt to a new life while learning about courage and perseverance.
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If You Enjoyed *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster...

You may like:

- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
A science fiction adventure about family, courage, and traveling through mysterious worlds.
- *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
A robot must learn how to survive in the wilderness and build relationships with animals.
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill
A magical fantasy story about love, identity, and discovering hidden abilities.
- *The Last Kids on Earth* by Max Brallier
A humorous adventure series filled with action, friendship, and imagination.

- *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo
A unique story about a toy rabbit who learns about love, loss, and compassion.
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If You Enjoyed *The Boys' War* by Jim Murphy...

You may like:

- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt
A historical fiction story about a family experiencing the challenges of the Civil War.
 - *The Fighting Ground* by Avi
A young boy experiences the realities and dangers of the Revolutionary War.
 - *Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulsen
A powerful story about a young soldier and the effects of war.
 - *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
A suspenseful story about courage and helping others during World War II.
 - *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
A story about survival, courage, and finding hope during wartime.
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If You Enjoyed *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck...

You may like:

- *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck
A humorous historical fiction story about family, adventure, and unexpected experiences.
 - *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
A family road trip becomes connected to an important moment in history.
 - *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
A girl faces major changes and learns to adapt to a new life.
 - *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
A young boy searches for family and belonging during the Great Depression.
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If You Enjoyed *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson...

You may like:

- *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
A powerful story about determination, survival, and hope.
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
A story about family, history, and the fight for equality.

- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
A young boy's journey to find family during the Great Depression.
 - *Jackie Robinson: American Hero* by Sharon Robinson
A biography about breaking barriers and changing baseball history.
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If You Enjoyed *I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic* by Lauren Tarshis...

You may like:

- *I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916* by Lauren Tarshis
A thrilling survival story about a boy who must find courage during a dangerous event.
 - *I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941* by Lauren Tarshis
A young person experiences one of the most important moments in American history.
 - *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* by Ken Cadow
A story inspired by the courage and determination of a Titanic survivor.
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If You Enjoyed *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry...

You may like:

- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
A historical fiction story about courage, independence, and survival during World War II.
- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen
A girl risks everything to reunite her family after the Berlin Wall divides their city.
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne
A historical fiction story about friendship and the impact of World War II.
- *Projekt 1065: A Novel of World War II* by Alan Gratz
A young boy living in Nazi Germany becomes involved in a dangerous mission.

Summer Reading OPTIONAL Graphic Organizer

Student Name: _____ Book Title and Author: _____

1. Characters & Character Traits

Character	Traits	Evidence from the Story

2. Major Themes

Theme #1:
What does the author show about this theme?

Theme #2:
What does the author show about this theme?

3. Conflict

Main Conflict:

Type: ☐ Character vs. Character ☐ Character vs. Self ☐ Character vs. Society ☐ Character vs. Nature

How does the conflict affect the characters?

How is the conflict solved?

4. Plot Elements

Setting:

Exposition (Beginning):

Rising Action (Important Events):

1.

2.

3.

Climax:

Falling Action:

Resolution: