

Grades 7- 8 Summer Reading



There are many reasons why reading during the summer is important. Reading enhances comprehension and expands vocabulary, which is significant since reading is a skill needed for all subjects throughout life. Students need to stay engaged with reading and learning, so they do not suffer the “Summer Slide”, (the loss of skills). Reading during July and August will help your child practice skills and grow as a learner. Not only will they experience faraway places, learn a fun fact about an animal or help solve a mystery, they will also learn new vocabulary, reinforce their grammar and writing skills.

Each student is to read two books. One is required and one is of their choice from the list provided. After reading the required book, complete a book report using the attached rubric and guidelines. After reading the book of their choice, choose one creative project from the list below. The score for both assignments will be scored and count as your first quiz grade for Reading.

Required Reading:

Grade 7 – *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

Grade 8 – *The Pact* by Davis Sampson & George Jenkins

Happy Reading

Grades 7 & 8 Summer Reading List

Adventure and Fantasy/Magical Realism/Fairy Tales and Myths

Sophie Quire and the Last Storygard by Jonathan Auxier Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-8 Peter Nimble and Sir Tode have been summoned by Professor Cake for a new mission: find a 12-year-old bookmender named Sophie Quire.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work side by side – while below the surface, tensions and hostilities simmer. NY Times Best-seller

Insignia by S.J. Kincaid Reading Level: 5 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 This book combines humor with a disarming and highly realistic view of the future. The characters are funny, real, and memorable. The earth is in the middle of WWIII and the planet's resources are almost gone. War is being fought to control the assets of the solar system and the enemy is winning, until a short fourteen-year-old with bad skin and excellent gaming skills comes to save the day.

If I Stay by Gayle Forman Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 9-12 In a single moment, everything changes. Seventeen year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck.

Wild Blue by Beth Kephart Reading Level: 8 Interest Level: Grades 5-9 Lizzie's friend and uncle are kidnapped by two escape convicts from her uncle's cabin in the mountains. Lizzie is there during the summer to escape her mother's cancer treatments. Lizzie is now tasked with finding the two if them.

Biography/Autobiography

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank Reading Level: 6.5 Interest Level: Grades 7-8 A young girl's journal records her family's struggles during two years of hiding from the Nazis in war-torn Holland.

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-10 The daughter of a wealthy Hong Kong businessman describes her very difficult childhood and the psychological abuse she suffered at the hands of her stepmother.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 This memoir is as joyous and painful as childhood itself. It captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right.

Andrew Jackson: The Making of America by Teri Kanefield Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-9 The story of one of our most controversial presidents, this work shares the life of a man who was a polarizing figure in his era but who remains a powerful force in our national politics.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-li Jiang Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-12 This page-turning autobiography is moving, honest, and deeply personal. It is the incredible true story of one girl's courage and determination during one of the most terrifying eras of the twentieth century.

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-12 This memoir details Malala's passion for speaking out in support of girls' education, even at great risk to her own personal safety.

Classics

The Pearl by John Steinbeck Reading Level: 7.1 Interest Level: Grades 9-12 A story of classic simplicity, based on a Mexican folktale, this book explores the secrets of man's nature, the darkest depths of evil, and the luminous possibilities of love.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 This tale of pirates and buried gold has a lovable and roguish cast of characters. Young Jim Hawkins goes to sea in search of Captain Flint's long-lost treasure. Threatening this endeavor is Long John Silver and a crew of pirates who make this a race not only for treasure but for survival itself.

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 4-12 Orphaned Anne Shirley has no idea what to expect when she comes to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. But they, and everyone else on Prince Edward Island, soon come to love her irrepressible personality and imagination.

Non-Fiction

The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game Called Life by Kwame Alexander Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-9 Inspiration on the court of life, each rule contains wisdom from athletes and role models such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, LeBron James, Carli Lloyd, Steph Curry, and Michele Obama.

Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World by Reshma Saujani and Andrea Tsourou Reading Level: 6.7 Interest Level: Grades 4-8 Part how-to, part girl-empowerment, and all fun, this book combines dynamic artwork, down-to-earth explanations of coding principles, and real-life stories of girls and women working at places like Pixar and NASA.

The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream by Dr. Sampson Davis, Dr. George Jenkins, and Dr. Rameck Hunt (also autobiography) Reading Level: 6.8 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 This NY Times bestseller is the true story of three African-American men who made a pact to survive the streets of Newark and become doctors.

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos (also autobiography) Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 The author relates how, as a young adult, he became a drug user and smuggler, was arrested, did time in prison, and eventually got out and went to college, all the while hoping to become a writer.

Lance Armstrong by Matt Doeden (also biography) Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-12 Learn how champion Lance Armstrong made it to the top and did what no other cyclist ever had. He won the grueling 2,000-plus-mile Tour de France seven times, all after a life-or-death struggle with cancer.

Historical Fiction

Mare's War by Tanita A. Davis Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up Black in 1940s Alabama and serving in Europe during World War II as a member of the Women's Army Corps.

Bread Givers by Anzia Yezierska Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 Set in the 1920s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, this masterwork of immigrant literature tells the story of an Orthodox rabbi's daughter who rebels against his rigid conception of Jewish womanhood.

Deadend in Norvelt by Jack Gantos (also humor) Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8 In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 4-8 In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 An account of the Great Fire of Chicago combines archival photographs and drawings with personal accounts by its survivors and historical documents.

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 6-8 This NY Times bestseller is about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. Enduring hardship, both youngsters are survivors whose stories intersect in an astonishing and moving way.

Realistic Fiction

Geek Girl by Holly Smale (also Young Adult Fiction) Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 Harriet Manners is a geek. When her friend Nat drags her along to a fashion show and Harriet is accidentally discovered by a modeling agent, she leaps at the chance to reinvent herself.

Who Will Tell My Brother by Marlene Carvell Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 6-9 During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world.

Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 5-9 Louise knew she was the despised twin and Caroline was the one everyone loved best. It took her a long time and a lot of growing up until she could accept herself as a worthwhile person. A Newbery Award winner.

Harlem Summer by Walter Dean Myers Reading level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 7-9 Myers is at his clever best in this witty and action-packed, coming-of-age story of a teenager's summer during the Harlem Renaissance and his run-ins with famous gangsters, writers, and musicians.

Blended by Draper, Sharon Reading Level: 5-7 Interest Level: Grades 5-7 Isabella is half-white and half-black. She also spends half her time with her father and half her time with her mother. This is her story of how she fits into both worlds.

Multicultural

Ghost Boys by Jewel Parker Rhodes Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: 6-8 Seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white policeman who thinks his toy gun is real. Jerome's ghost befriends Emmett Till and we watch the story unfold from their perspective.

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: 6-7 Amal, a young girl living in Pakistan, is sent to a wealthy man's house as an indentured servant after it is determined she insulted him. Her dreams of becoming a teacher are dashed. Amal must overcome adversity and does so in a creative and intelligent manner.

Pride by Ibi Zoboi Reading Level: 7-9 Interest Level: YA When the Darcy brothers move to Brooklyn, Zuri wants absolutely nothing to do with them. A college visit to Howard University and a drive home with one of the brothers- Darius- will change all that.

Science Fiction

The House of Scorpion by Nancy Farmer Reading Level: 7 Interest Level: Grades 6-8 This book describes what the author imagines life 100 years from now will be like. This Newbery Award-winning book is unsettling, provocative, and hard to put down.

Maximum Ride Forever by James Patterson Reading Level:6 Interest Level: Grades 4-12
Encore episode of a series about the incredible adventures of a teenage girl who can fly.
Maximum Ride boldly navigates a post-apocalyptic world.

Max: A Maximum Ride by James Patterson Reading Level: 6 Interest Level: Grades 6-8
Someone – or something – is decimating ships and sea life off Hawaii’s coast, and Max and her flock find themselves sucked into the Navy’s top-secret investigation of their catastrophe. Their objective: Rescue Max’s activity mom from a wicked subterranean enemy.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury Reading Level: 5 Interest Level: Grades 7-12 Set in a bleak, dystopian future, this novel tells the story of a world where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction.

Young Adult Fiction

Among the Hidden (also science fiction) by Margaret Peterson Haddix Reading Level: 7
Interest Level: Grades 4-8 Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel – a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Creative Project

Song Lyrics -- Write a poem or song lyrics that connect to your book. Focus on the plot, characters, and/or personal connections you have with the book. Your poem or song must be 20 lines or longer. If you record the song it must be at least 2 minutes long.

Sneaky Snoop -- As an investigative reporter, you sneak into the house of the main character in your book. Report on at least 5 items you find and include a picture (hand-drawn or digital) for each item. Also, include a written description (at least 2 sentences per item) identifying how each item connects to the main character. These items may or may not have been mentioned in the book...feel free to use your imagination.

T-Chart -- Label T-Chart with the titles of both books you read. Write at least 5 comparisons about the pair. You can tell how they are alike and how they are different. Use complete sentences in your comparisons.

Dear Author -- Write a letter to the author of your chosen book. Explain what you liked/disliked, ask any questions you have about the story/characters, explain what you would have changed if you were the author, and mention at least one thing you will always remember about this novel and why. This letter must be at least one full page (front and back if handwritten, front only, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, all 1" margins if typed). You must use letter format as well.

Dear Diary -- Write a diary entry about a main event in the book from the main character's point of view. Include their feelings/thoughts and questions. You must use a diary format. This entry must be at least one full page (front and back if handwritten, front only, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, all 1" margins if typed). You must use letter format as well.

New Chapter -- Write a new chapter for the book you read. Make sure the chapter is at least two full pages (two pages front and back if handwritten; two pages front, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, all 1" margins if typed). Be sure to keep the voice and style of the author as you pen a new chapter.

Interview -- Interview a character from your book. The interview must have at least 7 open-ended questions with no yes or no responses. If recorded the interview must be 3 minutes long. If written the interview must be at least two full pages (two pages front and back if handwritten; two pages front, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, all 1" margins if typed).

Movie Poster – Make a full-sized poster that serves as an advertisement for the movie version of the book. You should have a bold and noticeable title, pictures of the main character, and some type of teaser to get the audiences to come see the film. You may use technology or more traditional tools (e.g., colored pencils, markers) to create the poster.

Soundtrack – Create a soundtrack you think would be a good backdrop for the movie version of the book. Keep in mind that movies have some music without lyrics to set the mood during important parts. There should be at least two genres of music and at least four songs in your soundtrack. You should actually create a CD, including a playlist and a written justification for each song choice. Indicate whether you have found a theme song for the movie. (Some musical genres: Hip Hop, Jazz, R&B, Video Game Music, Pop, Rock, Reggae, Country, Classical, House Music, Gospel, Opera, Orchestra, World Music)

Book Cover -- Create an illustrated cover for your book. Include a summary of the story that describes the main character and the central conflict. Also include a description of the main character. Discuss the idea of change throughout this book using examples from the text.

Comic Strip -- Create a cartoon/storyboard (minimum of 8 panels) based on your book. Focus on pivotal events and put them in chronological order.

Movie Trailer -- Prepare a video trailer for your book. The trailer should be 3-5 minutes long and a positive presentation of the subject. The trailer must contain original footage or copyright free media.

Ex: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v>

Poetry – Write three poems in response to the book. The poems can be about the characters, the setting, the themes, the plot, or a combination of these.

BOOK REPORT RUBRIC Grade 7-8

	OUTSTANDING 9-10 / 16-20	EXCELLENT 6-8 / 11-15	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT 4-5 / 6-10	UNSATISFACTORY 0-3 / 0-5	SCORE
INTRODUCTION PAR. 1 10 pts	Title, author, and genre are stated. Catchy hook/opener is used. Thesis statement (sentence explaining what whole report will be about) is given. Reason why book was chosen is given.	Title, author, and genre are stated. Thesis statement (sentence explaining what whole report will be about) is given. Hook/opener is missing or ineffective. Reason book was chosen is missing, or not compelling.	Thesis statement is missing. 1 is missing: title, author, or genre. Hook/opener is missing or ineffective. Reason book was chosen is missing or not compelling.	Thesis statement is missing. 2 are missing: title, author, genre. Catchy hook/opener is missing. Reason book was chosen is missing or not compelling.	
BODY PAR. 2 Setting 10 pts	When and where story takes place are described in detail. At least 3 examples from the book are given to support statements.	When and where story takes place are described in detail. At least 2 examples from the book are given to support statements.	When and where story takes place are mentioned. One detail/example from the book is given as support.	Time or place of story is not given. OR Time and place are given but no details/examples from the book are given as support.	
BODY PARS. 3-4 Characters 20 pts	At least three main characters are described in detail (personalities). Explanation given of whether or not/how characters changed by story's end. At least 3 examples/details from book are given to support statements.	At least two main characters are described in detail (personalities). Limited explanation is given of whether or not/how characters changed. At least two examples/details from book are given as support.	Discussion of characters is very limited and vague (ex: focuses on externals like age, gender, physical traits without real discussion of personalities). Little details from book are given to support statements.	Discussion of characters is surface and vague. No details from book given as support.	
BODY PARS. 5-6 Plot 20 pts	Description of the plot (what happens in the story) is given. The main conflict of the story is shared. How the conflict is resolved / how the story ends is stated. Several details from the book are given to support statements.	Description of the plot is given. The main conflict of the story is shared. How the conflict is resolved is stated. Little detail is given as support.	Description of the plot is brief and vague. Description of the conflict is incomplete. No details from book are given as support.	Description of the plot is missing or very brief, vague. The same is true of the plot. No supporting details given.	
BODY PAR. 7 Theme 10 pts	A clear theme (lesson learned from book) is given – perhaps more than 1. At least 3 examples from the book are given to support this theme.	A clear theme (lesson learned from book) is given – perhaps more than 1. At least 2 examples from the book are given to support this theme.	A theme is given but it is unclear. Little to no details from book are given to support the theme.	Theme is missing or unclear. Theme is unsupported by details from book.	
CLOSING PAR. 8 Conclusion & Critique/Opinion 10 pts	Closing paragraph restates title, author, and genre. Student shares opinion on book's themes and how well it is written (plot and character development) and overall success, failure of book.	Closing paragraph restates title, author, and genre. Student's response, reaction to book discusses at least one aspects in a thorough way.	Critique consists of general thoughts, responses, and reactions to the book. Opinion is stated on 1 aspect. Title, author, or genre are not restated.	Vague "I liked it" or "I hated it" or some other personal feeling is extent of critique.	

