

2026 Summer Reading

We are pleased to announce the Summer Reading Requirement for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The grade level indicated is for the grade the student will be entering in September.

All students must read the book in their grade level marked by an asterisk (*).

They must also read any two additional books **from their grade level for a total of three books**.

We recommend students keep reading notes for each chapter to refer to when studying for the test in September. These notes may be in a google document or a notebook and can be in the format of the student's choice (summary paragraph, bullet points, or notes).

Books must be chosen from the student's grade level only.

Grade Five

**Hatchet*, Paulsen. This Newbery Honor book tells the story of Brian Robeson, who must learn to survive on his own following a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness.

The Wild Robot, Brown. Follows Roz, a robot stranded on a remote island who must learn to survive by adapting to nature and befriending the animals, ultimately discovering the true meaning of family and what it means to be alive.

The Giver, Lowry. Jonas wonders why he was chosen to receive special training from The Giver in a world where there is no war, fear, or pain.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, DiCamillo. The tale of a china rabbit who goes on an amazing journey and as a result, learns to love.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson, Lord. In 1947, Shirley Temple Wong encounters a strange, new society as she arrives in America and falls in love with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Grade Six

**Holes*, Sacher. This is the story of Stanley Yelnats, a 14-year-old boy accused of stealing a pair of shoes. A judge sentences him to 18 months in a camp, where a tyrannical warden has the boys digging five-foot by five-foot holes that appear random. However, their activity hints at the town's complicated past and an outlaw's lost treasure.

The Breadwinner, Ellis. Set in the early years of the Taliban regime, this topical novel explores the harsh realities of life for girls and women in modern-day Afghanistan.

The Bronze Bow, Spear. Set in Galilee in the time of Jesus, this Newberry Award-winning novel tells the story of a young Jewish rebel who is won over to the gentle teachings of Jesus.

The Cay, Taylor. A boy's racial antagonisms diminish when he is stranded on a coral island with a black man.

Homecoming, Voigt. Abandoned by her mother, Dicey and her brothers and sisters are left destitute, wanting to find one adult whom they can trust to hold their family together.

Grade Seven

**April Morning*, Fast. This historical novel deals with a young man's introduction to war at the Battle of Lexington.

The Port Chicago 50, Sheinkin. This is a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II, and a nuanced look at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they lacked the most basic rights.

The Birchbark House, Edrich. The book follows the story of Omakayas, a young Anishinabe (Indigenous Ojibwa) girl and her family over the course of one year.

The Crossover, Alexander. This story, told entirely in verse, follows twin brothers that share a love for basketball, but find themselves drifting apart as they head into their junior high school years.

Counting by 7s, Sloan. Willow Chance is a twelve-year old genius who finds it comforting to count by 7s. This intensely moving middle grade novel is about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

Grade Eight

**The Sign of the Beaver*, Speare. 13-year-old Matt Hallowell, who survives alone in the 1768 Maine wilderness. After being robbed and facing starvation, he befriends Attean, a Penobscot boy, trading reading lessons for survival skills, overcoming cultural prejudices, and developing a deep, lasting friendship

The Five People You Meet in Heaven, Albom. Through Eddie, a wounded war veteran, this novel explores the unexpected connections in our lives and the idea that heaven is more than a place; it's an answer.

The Pearl, Steinbeck. In this novella, Kino, a poor Mexican pearl diver, finds a valuable pearl. Kino believes that this wealth will lead to a life of luxury for himself and his family, but instead suffers a series of misfortunes.

The Alchemist, Coelho. This enchanting novel depicts the journey of a shepherd boy named Santiago as he travels from Spain to Egypt in search of treasure buried in the Pyramids. He eventually learns that real riches are waiting for him in an unexpected place.

The Four Agreements, Ruiz "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz offers a practical guide to personal freedom based on ancient Toltec wisdom, emphasizing four agreements to live by.