

# Summer Reading 2025

## Grades 6-8

Incoming sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students are required to **read at least TWO\*** books over the summer. Students are required to read or listen to ONE of the books on the list below of “Required Reading Books” for their respective grade levels. Students should take notes/annotate (in a notebook, on post-its, etc...) on characters, setting, theme, plot development, author’s craft, etc...

*Students will be assessed on the book(s) they choose at the start of the year and should be prepared to discuss their chosen text.* Students WILL be able to use any of the notes they have taken throughout the summer for this assessment.

Happy Reading!

***\*Note: The Mountainside Public Library provides digital copies and audiobooks. \*You can acquire a library card online if you do not already have one.***

### **Required Reading Books- Fiction**

6th- Choose 1	7th- Choose 1	8th- Choose 1	8th Honors- Choose 2
<b>Short</b> by Holly Goldberg Sloan  <b>What the Moon Saw</b> by Laura Resau  <b>The Wild Robot</b> by Peter Brown  <b>Out of My Mind</b> by Sharon Draper  <b>Captain Nobody</b> by Dean Pitchford  <b>Front Desk</b> by Kelly Yang  <b>I Funny: A Middle School Story</b> by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein	<b>The Crossover</b> by Kwame Alexander  <b>Fish In a Tree</b> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  <b>Flipped</b> by Wendelin Van Draanen  <b>Ungifted</b> by Gordon Korman  <b>Heat</b> by Mike Lupica  <b>The Lions of Little Rock</b> by Kristen Levine  <b>Restart</b> by Gordon Korman  <u>Any in these series:</u>  <b>Divergent</b> by Veronica Roth <b>Legend</b> by Marie Lu	<b>Murder on the Orient Express</b> by Agatha Christie  <b>The Giver</b> by Lois Lowry  <b>The Hunger Games</b> by Suzanne Collins  <b>Ranger’s Apprentice</b> by John Flanagan  <b>Esperanza Rising</b> by Pam Muñoz Ryan	<b>Life of Pi</b> by Yann Martel  <b>Murder on the Orient Express</b> by Agatha Christie  <b>The Alchemist</b> by Paulo Coelho  <b>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</b> by Betty Smith

## **Free Choice Reading--Nonfiction** *(1 For All Levels)*

Students may choose a biography, autobiography, memoir, or narrative nonfiction text. Below are some **suggested** titles for each grade level. Students may feel free to read an appropriate title that is not listed below.

*\*Post-it notes/annotations are not required for free-choice reading.*

6th	7th	8th
<p><b>Knots in My Yo-Yo String</b> by Jerry Spinelli</p> <p><b>Reaching for the Moon</b> by Katherine Johnson</p> <p><b>My Inventions: The Autobiography of Nikola Tesla</b> by Nikola Tesla</p> <p><b>Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio</b> by Peg Kehret</p> <p><b>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (young reader's ed.)</b> by William Kamkwamba</p> <p><b>Man on the Moon: How a Photograph Made Anything Seem Possible</b> by Pamela Jain Dell</p> <p><b>Shark Lady: True Adventures of Eugenie Clark</b> by Ann McGovern &amp; Ruth Chew</p> <p><b>Baseball Biographies for Kids: The Greatest Players from the 1960s to Today</b> by Dean Burrell</p>	<p><b>Brown Girl Dreaming</b> by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p><b>Who Was Series</b></p> <p><b>Freedom Riders - A Primary Source Exploration of the Struggle for Racial Justice</b> by Heather E. Schwart</p> <p><b>All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</b> by Christina Soontornvat</p> <p><b>How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure</b>, written by James L. Swanson and illustrated by John Rocco</p> <p><b>Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team</b> by Steve Sheinkin</p> <p><b>How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous</b> by Georgia Bragg</p> <p><b>Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights</b> by Steve Sheinkin</p>	<p><b>No Excuses: The True Story of a Congenital Amputee Who Became a Champion in Wrestling and in Life</b> by Kyle Maynard</p> <p><b>Red Scarf Girl</b> by Ji-Li Jiang</p> <p><b>Hidden Figures</b> by Margot Lee Shetterly</p> <p><b>The Immortal Life of Henriett Lacks</b> by Rebecca Skloot</p> <p><b>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</b> by James L. Swanson</p> <p><b>Chasing King's Killer</b> by James L. Swanson</p> <p><b>I am Malala</b> by Malala Yousafzai</p> <p><b>Anne Frank- The Diary of a Young Girl</b> by Anne Frank</p> <p><b>Shoe Dog</b> by Phil Knight</p>

***It may be helpful to reference a site such as [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org) in order to best determine which book choice will be most appropriate for your child.***

*\*Incoming 8th Grade Honors students are required to read **three** books total  
2 required fiction texts + 1 free choice nonfiction book*