

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
Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan What the Moon Saw by Laura Resau The Wild Robot by Peter Brown Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper Captain Nobody by Dean Pitchford Front Desk by Kelly Yang I Funny: A Middle School Story by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein	The Crossover by Kwame Alexander Fish In a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen Ungifted by Gordon Korman Heat by Mike Lupica The Lions of Little Rock by Kristen Levine Restart by Gordon Korman <u>Any in these series:</u> Divergent by Veronica Roth Legend by Marie Lu	Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie The Giver by Lois Lowry The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins Ranger’s Apprentice by John Flanagan Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan	Life of Pi by Yann Martel Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho A Tree Grows in Brooklyn 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>Knots in My Yo-Yo String by Jerry Spinelli</p> <p>Reaching for the Moon by Katherine Johnson</p> <p>My Inventions: The Autobiography of Nikola Tesla by Nikola Tesla</p> <p>Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio by Peg Kehret</p> <p>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (young reader's ed.) by William Kamkwamba</p> <p>Man on the Moon: How a Photograph Made Anything Seem Possible by Pamela Jain Dell</p> <p>Shark Lady: True Adventures of Eugenie Clark by Ann McGovern & Ruth Chew</p> <p>Baseball Biographies for Kids: The Greatest Players from the 1960s to Today by Dean Burrell</p>	<p>Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p>Who Was Series</p> <p>Freedom Riders - A Primary Source Exploration of the Struggle for Racial Justice by Heather E. Schwart</p> <p>All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat</p> <p>How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure, written by James L. Swanson and illustrated by John Rocco</p> <p>Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin</p> <p>How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg</p> <p>Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin</p>	<p>No Excuses: The True Story of a Congenital Amputee Who Became a Champion in Wrestling and in Life by Kyle Maynard</p> <p>Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang</p> <p>Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly</p> <p>The Immortal Life of Henriett Lacks by Rebecca Skloot</p> <p>Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson</p> <p>Chasing King's Killer by James L. Swanson</p> <p>I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai</p> <p>Anne Frank- The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank</p> <p>Shoe Dog by Phil Knight</p>

It may be helpful to reference a site such as 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*