

Summer Reading 2026

Your summer reading is an essential component to start the year right. The book listed below was selected to prepare you for success in middle school.

Please read the following books over the summer:

7th/8th grade Gifted and Talented

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Follow these guidelines:

- Choose activities that ADD UP to 100 points from the chart below.**
 - It doesn't matter how many activities you choose, but they must add up to the required points.
 - ❖ For a 25-point activity, you must write at least **TWO paragraphs**.
 - ❖ Remember, each paragraph must **include a minimum of 8-10 sentences**. Make sure you have a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.
 - ❖ You **MUST** select activities from the different elements of fiction (characters, setting, personal connection, and story structure).
- Choose ONE of the following essay prompts to answer (in a 5-paragraph essay)**

Essay Prompt Option 1:

- Both *The Giver* and *The Pearl* explore how a single object or idea can completely change a person's understanding of the world. In *The Giver*, memories give Jonas new knowledge and emotions. In *The Pearl*, Kino's pearl changes his hopes, relationships, and view of society.

Write an essay analyzing how Lois Lowry and John Steinbeck show that gaining something valuable can lead to both opportunity and suffering. Use evidence from both texts to explain how the characters are transformed by what they receive.

Essay Prompt Option 2:

- In both *The Giver* and *The Pearl*, characters struggle against the expectations and values of their societies. Jonas begins to question the rules of his community, while Kino fights against the greed and injustice surrounding the pearl.

Write an essay analyzing how the authors use conflict between the individual and society to develop a theme about freedom, control, or the pursuit of a better life. Support your response with evidence from both texts.

- ❖ You must submit your summer reading assignments on the first day of school.
- ❖ **ALL work must be TYPED.**
- ❖ **Add the letter and title of each activity to make it clear which activities you are choosing.**

Summer Reading Grade:

Your Summer Reading Work should be submitted via Google Classroom.

DO NOT take the answers from online; you will receive a ZERO if you are suspected of plagiarizing or using an AI tool.

You will be tested on the novel within the first marking period. I realize that the summer reading texts can be easily obtained online and that you could complete the work without reading the book. But you have been given assignments and essay prompts that will be impossible to complete unless you have actually read the novel. Please do not attempt to complete assignments or write an essay on a book you haven't read: it will not go well.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE SUMMER READING WILL AFFECT THE 1ST MARKING PERIOD GRADE, AS THIS IS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE GRADED AS A TEST. Completion of the Summer Reading assignment is required to remain in the course. Failure to do so may result in placement in an alternate class level.

Good Luck, and remember it's never too early to start your summer reading!

CHARACTER

<p>A. Ups and Downs</p> <p>How is a person’s life like a seesaw? It’s sure to be filled with plenty of ups and downs! What ups (positive moments) and downs (difficulties-conflicts) has the main character of the book experienced? Create a T-Chart graph and list at least 4 of the character’s high and 4 low points. When you are finished, choose ONE of those events and write ONE paragraph about how this event changed him or her for better or worse.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 705 797 892"> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 705 493 779">Character’s High Moments</td> <td data-bbox="493 705 797 779">Character’s Low Moments</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="191 779 493 892"></td> <td data-bbox="493 779 797 892"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">15 POINTS</p>	Character’s High Moments	Character’s Low Moments			<p>B. Movie Tag Line</p> <p>You have been asked to write a ONE-SENTENCE advertisement (commercial) to promote the movie version of the book. Come up with a single sentence that tells what the main character faces and what he or she discovers about himself or others.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLES:</u></p> <p><u>Harry Potter:</u> “A boy must face death and his parents’ murderer to survive.”</p> <p><u>Charlotte’s Web:</u> “ Wilbur fights for his life while learning the value of friendship.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 POINTS</p>
Character’s High Moments	Character’s Low Moments				
<p>C. Trophy Tribute</p> <p>If you were going to give a character in your book a great big trophy, what would it be for? Maintaining a super sense of humor? Never giving up? Being the strongest character in the novel? Think about what makes a character in your book outstanding or unique; then write what you would inscribe on the base of the trophy to honor him or her. (7 sentences) Use quotes to support your points.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE:</u></p> <p>Award to Harry Potter: “Bravest boy in the world!”</p> <p>This trophy is given to Harry Potter for his heroic fight against ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 POINTS</p>	<p>D. The Desert Island</p> <p>If you were stranded (abandoned) on a desert island with ANY character from your book, who would you choose? Why would you choose that character?</p> <p>Write ONE paragraph explaining your favorite character to be stranded on the island.</p> <p>In addition, write ANOTHER paragraph explaining a character that you would NOT want to be on the island with you.</p> <p>Remember you are writing TWO paragraphs!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 POINTS</p>				

SETTING

E. Prized Setting	F. Important Scenes
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<p>The book you read took place in different places/locations. Which place did you like the most? Why did you pick this place? Did the place create a beautiful picture in your mind (visualize)? Was the place important to the plot and the story? Did it remind you of another place/spot you like (connection)?</p> <p>Discuss the setting and explain your answer in TWO paragraphs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 POINTS</p>	<p>Pick your FAVORITE character. Which settings deeply affected your character’s decisions and feelings? Which settings created conflict/problems for your character?</p> <p>Identify 2 or 3 settings and explain the impact/effect the settings have on the character.</p> <p>You must write TWO paragraphs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 POINTS</p>
<p>G. Place Postcard</p>	<p>H. Past, Present, Future</p>
<p>Create a postcard that celebrates a favorite setting from the book. It could be a rainforest, a desert, or even the character’s bedroom. On one side, draw a picture of the place (Write: greetings from...). On the other hand, imagine that you just vacationed there and tell a friend about this place.</p> <p>When you are done, address it to a classmate who has not read the book.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 150px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Greetings From</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(picture)</i></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: 150px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Jose,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Love,</p> </div> <p>(Write a paragraph to a friend on the back)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 POINTS</p>	<p>In this book, are the characters living in the past, the future or do they remain in the present time? (Explain)</p> <p>Give 3 examples from the book to support your answer.</p> <p>Write at least 12-15 sentences.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE:</u></p> <p>In the book “Holes” by L. Sachar, the main character is in the present. One example that shows this is when Another example that proves that the main character is in the present is when Furthermore, there are characters in the past. One example is when.... In this scene, we can see....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 POINTS</p>


PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

<p>I. Get In Shape</p>	<p>J. Who Interests you?</p>

<p>If you had to pick a shape to represent the story you just read, which would it be? A triangle because it's about 3 best friends? A diamond because the most important scenes take place in a baseball game? A circle because the main character ends up back where he started? Dig deep into your imagination and tell why the shape you selected reminds you of the story.</p> <p>Write at least TWO paragraphs to explain your choice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 POINTS</p>	<p>You board a train and you discover you have the choice to sit next to the main character or another character in your book. With whom would you choose to talk? Why? What would you like to ask the character? What would you tell him or her?</p> <p>Create a dialogue between you and your character. Make sure you have at least 15 lines of dialogue. Use quotation marks.</p> <p><u>Example:</u> Me: "Hi, Charlotte. How are you feeling?" Charlotte: "I'm exhausted. I just finished laying my eggs." Me: "Oh that's so exciting. But, what will happen to you now?" Charlotte: "it is time for me to go..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 POINTS</p>
<p>K. That's a Keeper</p>	<p>L. New Kid in Town</p>
<p>Ten years from now (in 2020), what do you think you will remember about the book you just read? Do you think you would remember the settings because they seemed real to you? Do you think you will remember the main character because he reminds you of your brother or sister? Or will you remember a scene that made you laugh so hard you fell off your chair?</p> <p>Think about it and then DRAW a snapshot/picture of your favorite memory/scene. Also, write at least 4 sentences to describe it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 POINTS</p>	<p>Imagine that the main character is moving to Union City. Will he or she fit in and feel comfortable? Why or why not? Compare your character to Union City. How are his/her values similar or different to Union City? Write a paragraph and make sure to include examples/details from Union City to support your answer.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE:</u> If Wilbur moved into Union City, I think he would have a hard time surviving here because he is a pig and people here love to eat pork! Also, I think he would enjoy going to the waterfront and breathing the fresh air because here in Union City we have....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 POINTS</p>

Story Structure

<p>M. Step into the Story</p>	<p>N. Add a Chapter</p>
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 <p>Think of the plot as a staircase full of steps leading up, up, and up to the book’s conclusion.</p> <p>Make a staircase graphic organizer. Write a key (important) event on each step (at least 5 steps) until you reach the end of the story. Decide which step is the most important to the story.</p> <p>Explain the most important step in ONE paragraph.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 POINTS</p>	<p>When you have finished the very last page of a great story, do you ever find yourself thinking, “I wonder what happened next?”</p> <p>Think carefully about the book you have just read, kick your imagination into high gear, and tell what you think would occur in the following chapter.</p> <p>Write a chapter of at least TWO paragraphs explaining how the story continues. Be creative!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 POINTS</p>				
<p>O. Key Event</p>	<p>P. Changing Chapter Titles</p>				
<p>What is the most important event in the book you just read? A boy winning a basketball game? A girl solving a mystery?</p> <p>Write a ONE paragraph description of what you consider the story’s most important (key) event and explain why you think this event is important.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE</u> In the book Holes, I think one of the most important events is that Stanley Yelnats IV broke the gypsy’s curse. In my opinion,..... In addition, I think..... Finally, I believe this event...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 POINTS</p>	<p>Does the book you just read have chapter titles or just plain numbers (Chapter 8)? In this activity, you will need to come up with new names for at least 5 chapters. Make sure the titles grab the readers’ attention and make them understand what the chapters are about. In a graphic organizer, explain your titles briefly.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="824 1262 1430 1556"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th>Explanation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chapter 1: Arriving at Camp Green Lake</td> <td>I chose this title because the main character arrives at a camp called Camp Green Lake. In this chapter, the camp is described.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">20 POINTS</p>	Title	Explanation	Chapter 1: Arriving at Camp Green Lake	I chose this title because the main character arrives at a camp called Camp Green Lake. In this chapter, the camp is described.
Title	Explanation				
Chapter 1: Arriving at Camp Green Lake	I chose this title because the main character arrives at a camp called Camp Green Lake. In this chapter, the camp is described.				

Name: _____

Novel Title:

Author:

	Activity-Letter (a-p)	Possible points	Points Earned (teacher)
Character			
Setting			
Story Structure			
Personal Connections			
Other Choices			
Final Grade			