

ELA Middle School Summer Book List 2024-2025

Educational research continually confirms the long-held belief that reading provides children with many of the skills necessary for success. In addition to preparing our students for standardized assessments, reading regularly improves comprehension, vocabulary, literacy, and verbal skills.

This summer, you will read 2 books listed for your grade level. Then, complete 2 of the projects listed on the Summer Reading Project Choices. Each book should be a different project. Finally, when you return to school in September, you may take AR tests for points toward your trimester 1 AR goal.

Incoming 6th Grade:

<i>Number the Stars</i>	Lois Lowry (4 AR Points)
<i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis (8 AR Points)
<i>Red Kayak</i>	Priscilla Cummings (8 AR Points)
<i>Fish In a Tree</i>	Lynda Mullaly Hunt (7 AR Points)
<i>Clean Getaway</i>	Nic Stone (5 AR Points)
<i>Small as an Elephant</i>	Jennifer Jacobson (7 AR Points)

Incoming 7th Grade:

<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>	Gennifer Choldenko (7 AR Points)
<i>Lyddie</i>	Katherine Paterson (9 AR Points)
<i>Brian's Winter</i>	Gary Paulsen (5 AR Points)
<i>The Wednesday Wars</i>	Gary Schmidt (12 AR Points)
<i>Restart</i>	Gordon Kormon (9 AR Points)
<i>Making Bombs for Hitler</i>	Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch (7 AR Points)

Incoming 8th Grade:

<i>Refugee</i>	Alan Gratz (10 AR Points)
<i>Code Orange</i>	Caroline B. Cooney (8 AR Points)
<i>The War that Saved My Life</i>	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (9 AR Points)
<i>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus</i>	Dusti Bowling (7 AR Points)
<i>Among the Hidden</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix (5 AR Points)
<i>The Outsiders</i>	S.E. Hinton (7 AR Points)

Directions: Read 2 books of your choice, from the Middle School Summer Book List for your incoming grade level. Read through each task and the criteria for all four projects. Select one project to complete for each of the books that you have read. Complete a different project for each book. Circle or highlight your two choices below.

All projects are to be completed on paper in your neatest handwriting OR typed and printed. Please remember to check for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization. All projects must be turned in on the first day of school.

Task #1- Dear Abby Letter

Imagine that you are allowed to give one character some advice or words of wisdom.

Write a letter to one of the characters that offers them some wise advice that can help them in the novel.

Your letter should include:

- A description of your chosen character.
- At least one piece of advice or words of wisdom that would help out the character in the novel.
- Explanation of why this advice would help out the character.
- One quote from the book from/or about the character, include the page number of the quote.
- The letter should be at least TWO paragraphs and 8 complete sentences.
- Written on looseleaf in your neatest handwriting OR typed on the computer and printed.

Task #2- Advertisement

Imagine that you have been tasked with creating an advertising campaign that will promote the release of this novel.

Create a print ad that contains a catchy headline, images, and words/phrases from the novel that will entice people to purchase this novel.

Your Advertisement should include:

- A creative layout that contains 3 pictures
- Include 2 quotes from the book, with page numbers of where the quote can be found.
- A brief 4-sentence summary of the novel written in your own words. (can go on the back of advertisement paper)
- Eye-catching and neat design to draw in a potential reader. This should encourage someone to read the novel.
- The title and author of the novel must be included in the advertisement.
- Completed on construction paper or white computer paper.
- Include color.

Task #3- Morning Announcements

Imagine that your school is trying to encourage reading by promoting a different book each morning during announcements. You have been selected to write an announcement for the novel you just read.

Create a 30-second announcement that will describe the novel and the reasons why other students at your school should read the novel.

Your Announcement should include:

- A 30-second announcement that includes a brief description of the novel and reasons why other students should read this novel.
- Provide at least 3 reasons including specific evidence from the text along with the page number of evidence from the text.
- Provide your own personal insights/ opinions on the novel.
- A catchy tagline/slogan that will help others remember the novel and hook them into wanting to read the novel.
- Your Response should be at least TWO paragraphs in length and 8 complete sentences.
- Completed on looseleaf in your neatest handwriting OR typed on the computer and printed.

Task #4- Bookmark Activity

Bookmark all the important parts of the book. Use the template provided by your teacher for this activity.

Fill in each bookmark as indicated, including your rating of the book, the main character, setting, problem and solution, and your favorite scene in the book.

Your response should include:

- The title of the book, author, and a drawn image to represent the book
- Your Recommendation for the book (in stars) and an explanation for why you rated it the way you did
- The main character, adjectives to describe the main character, and a drawn image of the main character.
- A summary of your favorite chapter and a drawn image of your favorite part of the chapter.
- A description of the problem the antagonist (main character) encounters in the book. As well as a description of how the problem was resolved (solution).
- A description and drawn image of the setting in the book.