

Summer Reading 2026

Grades 6th- 8th

Summer Reading is assigned to encourage students to read independently and to practice public speaking skills by giving a book talk. You must choose a book to read during the summer and come to school, with book in hand, prepared to share your analysis and impressions of the book with other students.

Please choose a book from the list, and choose a book that you will enjoy!

You may NOT read a book that you have previously read and studied in school.

You will give an oral book talk in front of your class. You will be expected to:

- Begin with an attention-getting quote.
- Show the cover of the book and state the title, author, and genre.
- Briefly summarize the plot, without giving away the ending, including
 - o Setting
 - o Theme
 - o Point of View
- Describe a character. Include two or three personality traits and supporting details from the text. (You may “become the character” if you wish.)
- Fluently read a favorite or significant passage (5-10 sentences) from the book, discussing why you chose this passage.
- Share examples of at least three additional literary techniques used by the author.
- Share your reaction to the book, tell the audience to whom you would recommend this book, and explain why.

As you read, you will want to annotate (mark) in the book as you encounter important passages, literary techniques, or significant details, so that you can easily find them later (use sticky notes or highlight or underline and write notes in the margins). It is suggested that you prepare notecards to keep you on track during your talk. You may want to start writing these notes as you read during the summer.

When you come to school in August, you must have your book with you. You should have marked the book. If you have prepared note cards, bring them.

Your assessment will be based entirely on the oral book talk, including preparation, content, and presentation style



2026- 2027 Middle School Battle of the Books List

Title of the Book	Author
A Long Walk to Water	Linda Sue Park
As Brave as You	Jason Reynolds
Bridge to Terabithia	Katherine Paterson
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis
Call it Courage	Armstrong Sperry
Cheaper by the Dozen	Frank Bunker Gilbreth, Jr
Everything on a Waffle	Polly Horvath
Frindle	Andrew Clements
Life of Pi	Yann Martel
Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks	Jason Reynolds
My Life as a Smashed Burrito with Extra Hot Sauce	Bill Myers
National Park Mystery Series: Mystery in Rocky Mountain National Park (Book 1)	Aaron Johnson
Pax	Sara Pennypacker
Restart	Gordon Korman
Swindle	Gordon Korman
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak
The Bridge Home	Padma Venkatraman
The Chance to Fly	Ali Stoker and Stacy Davidowitz
The City of Ember	Jeanne DuPrau
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead