

Summer Reading 2026

Grades 9-12

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.

A suggested list of titles and authors is attached, but you are not limited to these titles or authors. We encourage you to use internet searches to review the suggested books and to look at other reading lists.

Choose a book that you will enjoy, one which you believe to be of recognizable literary merit, but appropriate to your grade level and personal reading ability and aligned with your family's values.

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 teacher will give you a specific rubric to follow as you prepare the book talk and assign a deadline for completion.

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

Book List

Introduction to Literature –

1. [Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl](#)
2. [Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson](#)
3. [A Child Called “It” by Dave Pelzer](#)
4. [Crank by Ellen Hopkins](#)
5. [Divergent by Veronica Roth](#)
6. [Dune by Frank Herbert](#)
7. [Frankly in Love by David Yoon](#)
8. [Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card](#)
9. [The Fault in Our Stars by John Green](#)
10. [The Giver by Lois Lowry](#)
11. [The Harry Potter series by J K Rowling](#)
12. [The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins](#)
13. [His Dark Materials series by Philip Pullman](#)
14. [The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams](#)
15. [House of Night series by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast](#)
16. [Little Brother by Cory Doctorow](#)
17. [Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds](#)
18. [Lord of the Flies by William Golding](#)
19. [The Maze Runner series by James Dashner](#)
20. [Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs](#)

21. [The Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare](#)
22. [The Princess Bride by William Goldman](#)
23. [The Princess Diaries series by Meg Cabot](#)
24. [Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson](#)
25. [Speak: The Graphic Novel by Laurie Halse Anderson](#)
26. [Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli](#)
27. [Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt](#)
28. [Twilight by Stephanie Meyer](#)

American Literature –

1. [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz](#)
2. [All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely](#)
3. [American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang](#)
4. [Anthem by Ayn Rand](#)
5. [The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley](#)
6. [The Call of the Wild by Jack London](#)
7. [Catch-22 by Joseph Heller](#)
8. [The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger](#)
9. [Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman](#)
10. [The Color Purple by Alice Walker](#)
11. [Crank series by Ellen Hopkins](#)
12. [Delirium series by Lauren Oliver](#)
13. [Dragonwings by Laurence Yep](#)
14. [Dreamland Burning by Jennifer Latham](#)
15. [Every Day by David Levithan](#)
16. [Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury](#)
17. [The Fault in Our Stars by John Green](#)
18. [Flowers For Algernon by Daniel Keyes](#)

19. [Go Ask Alice by Anonymous](#)
20. [The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck](#)
21. [The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)
22. [The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas](#)
23. [The Help by Kathryn Stockett](#)
24. [Holes by Louis Sachar](#)
25. [The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros](#)
26. [The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins](#)
27. [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou](#)
28. [Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison](#)
29. [Jubilee by Margaret Walker](#)
30. [Little Women by Louisa May Alcott](#)
31. [Looking for Alaska by John Green](#)
32. [My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult](#)
33. [Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave by Frederick Douglass](#)
34. [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander](#)
35. [Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck](#)
36. [The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway](#)
37. [One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey](#)
38. [The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton](#)
39. [Paper Towns by John Green](#)
40. [The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky](#)
41. [Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition by Katie Rain Hill](#)
42. [Roots by Alex Haley](#)
43. [The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants series by Ann Brashares](#)
44. [Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury](#)

45. [A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams](#)
46. [Tender is the Night by F. Scott Fitzgerald](#)
47. [To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee](#)
48. [Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen](#)

British Literature –

1. [Frankenstein by Mary Shelley](#)
2. [Great Expectations by Charles Dickens](#)
3. [Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift](#)
4. [The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien](#)
5. [Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte](#)
6. [Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien](#)
7. [The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy](#)
8. [Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens](#)
9. [Pride And Prejudice by Jane Austen](#)
10. [The Sherlock Holmes series by Arthur Conan Doyle](#)
11. [Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson](#)
12. [A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens](#)
13. [Tess of the d’Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy](#)
14. [Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson](#)
15. [Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte](#) (especially if you’re a Twilight fan)

World Literature –

1. [1984: A Novel by George Orwell](#)
2. [Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#)
3. [Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy](#)
4. [Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery](#)
5. [Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne](#)
6. [The Book Thief by Markus Zusak](#)

7. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne
8. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
9. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
10. A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
11. Dracula by Bram Stoker
12. The Hobbit series by J.R.R. Tolkien
13. The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
14. Life of Pi by Yann Martel
15. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
16. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce