Summer Reading 2026

Kindergarten

Recommended authors

Bruel, Nick
Brown, Margaret Wise
Campbell Ernst, Lisa
Crews, Donald
dePaola, Tomie
Dr. Seuss
Freeman, Don
Henkes, Kevin
Keats, Ezra Jack
Lionni, Leo
Lobel, Arnold
McCloskey, Robert
Rylant, Cynthia
Sendak, Maurice
Sierra, Judy
Steig, William

Classic Literature

Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales
ABC Books
Counting Books

First Grade

Recommended authors

Aruego, Jose
Bunting, Eve
Brown, Marc
Brown, Margaret Wise
Burningham, John
Carle, Eric
Crews, Donald
Degen, Bruce
Cole, Joanna
dePaolo, Tomie
Ehlert, Lois
Freeman, Lois
Heller, Ruth
Hoban, Lillian
Hoban, Russell
Hutchins, Pat
Keats, Ezra Jack
Kellogg, Steven
Lionni, Leo
Lobel, Arnold
Mayer, Mercer
Martin, Bill
McPhail, David
Potter, Beatrix
Prelutsky, Jack
Silverstein, Shel
Zolotow, Charlotte

Classic Literature

Nursery Rhymes
Aesop's Fables
Grimm's Fairy Tales
Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales
ABC Books
Counting Books
Song Books

Second Grade

Carle, Eric
Cleary, Beverly
Dadey, Debbie & Thornton, Marcia (Bailey School Kids)
Dahl, Roald
dePaola, Tomie
Gutman, Dan (My Weird School Series)
Howe, James
Kellogg, Steven
Lobel, Arnold
Martin, Bill
Osborne, Mary Pope
Parker, Barbara (Junie B. Jone series)
Parrish, Peggy (Amelia Bedelia series)
Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman (Nate the Great mysteries)
Steig, William
Warner, Gertrude (Boxcar children series)

Fiction

Blume, Judy
The Pain and the Great One
The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo
Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing

Huck, Charlotte
Princess Furball

Kellogg, Steven
Paul Bunyan
Johnny Appleseed
Pecos Bill

Van Allsburg, Chris
Jumanji
The Polar Express

Viorst, Judith
Alexander and the Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Yashima, Taro
Crow Boy

Young, Ed
Lon PoPo

Zephyr, Harriet
A New Coat for Anna

Non-fiction
Johanna Cole
Gail Gibbons

Third Grade

Suggested list of genres and or series

Title	Author
Cam Jansen (series)	David Adler
Detective LaRue-picture book series	Mark Teague
Magic Tree House (series)	Mary Pope Osborne
Ivy & Bean (series)	Annie Barrows
The Wednesday Surprise	Eve Bunting
Stink (series)	Megan McDonald
Judy Moody (series)	Megan McDonald
Encyclopedia Brown (series)	Donald Sobol
Horrible Harry (series)	Suzy Kline
Absolutely Lucy	Illene Cooper
The Keeping Quilt	Patricia Palacco
Junie B. Jones (series)	Barbara Park
Flat Stanley (series)	Jeff Brown
Katie Kazoo Switcheroo (series)	Nancy Krulik
Bailey School Kids (series)	Debbie Dadley
Rainbow Magic (series)	Daisy Meadows
Eagle Song	Joseph Bruchac
Five True Dog Stories	Margaret Davidson

A Chair for My Mother	Vera Williams
Goofballs (series)	Tony Abbott
My Father's Dragon (series)	Ruth Stiles Gannett
Jake Drake (series)	Andrew Clements
Freckle Juice	Judy Blume
Secrets of Droon	Tony Abbott
Snake Hair: The Story of Medusa	Spinner
Arthur (chapter book series)	Marc Brown
Ramona (series)	Beverly Cleary
Amber Brown (series)	Paula Danziger
My Weird School (series)	Dan Gutman
Class Clown	Johanna Hurwitz
Gooney Bird Greene	Lois Lowry
Hundred Penny Box	Sharon Bell Mathis
Doggone...Third Grade!	Colleen O'Shaughnessy McKenna
A to Z Musteries (series)	Ron Rou

Fourth Grade Work on Reading Comprehension/Text Evidence by logging into Read Theory.com

Realistic Fiction

Davies, Jacqueline
The Lemonade War

DiCamillo, Kate
Because of Winn-Dixie

Lord, Cynthia
Rules

Palacio, R.J.
Wonder

Sachar, Daniel
Holes

Spinelli, Jerry
Fourth Grade Rats

Poetry

Bagert, Brod
Giant Children

Creech, Sharon
Love That Dog

Historical Fiction

Coerr, Eleanor
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Tarshis, Lauren
I Survived series

Curtis, Christopher Paul
Bud, Not Buddy

MacLachlan, Patricia
Sarah Plain and Tall

Wilder, Laura Ingalls
Little House on the Prairie series

Fantasy

Applegate, K.A
The One and Only Ivan

Blume, Judy
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Buckley, Michael
The Sisters Grimm Series

Catling, Patrick Skene
The Chocolate Touch

Clements, Andrew
Frindle

Fleming, Candace
The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School

Gaiman, Neil
Coraline

George, Jean Craighead
My Side of the Mountain
Hunter, Erin
Seekers series

Korman, Gordon
Swindle

Martin, Ann M.
The Doll People series

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds
Shiloh

Riordan, Rick
Percy Jackson series

Rowling, J.K.
Harry Potter series

Selden, George
The Cricket in Times Square

Selznick, Brian
The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Biography

Who was..? series

Classics

Lewis, C.S.
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Patterson, Katherine
Bridge to Terabithia

White, E.B.
Charlotte's Web

Mystery

Konigsburg, E.L.
The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Raskin, Ellen
The Westing Game

Martin, Ann M.*The Doll People* series

Summer Reading Response

5th grade

This summer, read a minimum of two books of your choice. See the summer reading list for your grade for ideas if needed. Choose **one** of these books to use for your reading response. **This assignment is due on the first day of school, August 18, 2026. This will be your first grade recorded for the 2026-27 school year!** Please write a four-paragraph essay. As you write, be sure to use all of those great writing skills you have been working on during your school career!

Paragraph 1: All About You

In this paragraph, write anything you'd like your teacher to know about you! Feel free to include information about your family, interests, hobbies, summer plans, personality, pets, and so on. What do you think is important for your teacher to know about you, or what do you want your teacher to know about you? What are you looking forward to this year?

Paragraph 2: You and Language Arts

What are some things you like and enjoy about Language Arts? This could be reading, writing, presenting, discussing, debating, working on projects or anything else you can think of!

- Tell about a short story, novel, or genre you read in school that you really liked.
- What are some things you dislike about Language Arts?
- Are there any parts of Language Arts that you find difficult or confusing?
- Are there any books you're looking forward to reading?

Paragraph 3: Respond to the book you read this summer in the next two paragraphs. Include the following:

- TAG (Title, Author, Genre)
- Why you chose this book
- 5-7 sentence summary of the book

Paragraph 4: Choose **one** of the following prompts to answer. Use text evidence to support your answer, and explain why the text evidence supports your answer. Don't forget to include page numbers.

- Which character in the book experienced the most change? Why do you think so? How did they change?
- What is the theme of the story? Need a reminder about finding the theme of a work of literature? Check out this 6-minute video for some help. Understanding theme | Reading (video) | Khan Academy
- Make a connection to the story:
    - text-text - connect the book to another book you've read

    - text-self- connect the book to something you have ex[erienced or know about yourself
    - text-world - connect the book to history, news, or anything else about the world
- Rewrite the ending of the story.
- If you were the author, what would you change and why?
- If this book became a movie, what 5 scenes would you include and why?
- Choose a scene from the book. Write it from the perspective of a different character.

Fifth Grade

***Reading Response requirements on the last page**

Avi
Poppy and Rye

Bishop, Claire H.
Fudge
Double fudge

Burnett, Francis H.
The Secret Garden

Cohen, Barbara
Thank You, Jackie Robinson

Cooper, Susan
The Dark is Rising
The Grey King

Creech, Sharon
Absolutely Normal Chao
Flush

Dahl, Roald
Matilda

Danziger, Paula
P.S. Longer Letter Later

Danziger, Paula and Martin
Snail Mail No More

Deneberg, Barry
When Will this Cruel War Be Over
So Far from Home

Doyle, Bill
Behind Enemy Lines

Duncan, Lois
Hotel for Dogs

Estes, Eleanor
Ginger Pye

Fenner, Carol
Yolanda's Genius

Fleischman, Paul
Whirligig

George, Jean C.
Julie of the Wolves
Shark Beneath The Reef

Gilbreth, Frank
Cheaper by the Dozen

Gregory, Christiana
Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie
The Winter of Red Snow

Gutman, Dan
Jackie and Me
The Million Dollar bBooks

Hahn, Mary D
Daphne's Book
Wait Till Helen Comes

Henry, Marguerite
King of the Wind
Misty of Chincoteague

Hesse, Karen

Out of the Dust

Hobbs, Will
Ghost Canoe

Keen, SallyM.
I Am Regina

Klise, Sarah
Regarding the Sink
Regarding the Trees

Konigsberg, E.L.
From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Levine, Gail Carson
Ella Enchanted

Lisle, Janet
Afternoon Of The Elves
Many Waters

Lofting, Hugh
The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle

London, Jack
The Call of the Wild
White Fang

Lupica, Mike
Heat
Travel Team
The Big Field

Mass, Wendy
any & all

Odell, Scott
Sarah Bishop
Island of the Blue Dolphin
The Black Pearl

Paterson, Catherine
Bridge to Terabithia

Patron, Susan
The Higher Power of Lucky

Paulson, Gary
Hatchet
others

Rawls, Wilson
Where the Red Fern Grows
Summer of the Monkeys
Richter, Conrad
The Light in the Forest

Roberts, Willo E.
A View From the Cherry Tree

Schroeder, Lisa
It's Raining Cupcakes

Selznick, Brian
The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty

Salisbury, Graham
Under the Blood Red Sun

Snyder, Zilpha K.
The Egypt Game

Speare, Elizabeth G.
The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Spinelli, Jerry
Milkweed
Trafton, Jennifer
The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic

Taylor, Mildred
Song of the Trees

Verne, Jules
Around the World in Eighty Days

Wallace, Barbara B.
Peppermints in The Parlor

Wallace, Bill
Danger in Quicksand Swamp

Yeo, Wilma
A Girl in the Window
The Stranger at Winfield House

Sixth Grade

This assignment is due on the first day of school and will represent the first grade recorded for the 2026-27 school year! Students should create a Google doc using their school email and send it to the 6th Grade Teacher when finished. Responses can be submitted any time during the summer (for those early birds out there). We are looking forward to reading these first writing pieces from our rising sixth graders.

Book Choice:
This summer, read a minimum of two books of your choice. The choice of books should be grade-level appropriate in content and length (at least 200 pages). We recommend choosing at least one non-fiction book. While graphic novels are an appropriate source of reading, students may not use a graphic novel for their book report. When choosing your book, make sure it's a "Goldilocks" fit (not too easy that it's not challenging, but not too hard it's frustrating) so, in other words, choose a book that's just right for you! This should also be a first time read for you as well.

Note to parents: Your family values are important to us. We recommend that you monitor your children's reading by asking them what the book they read is about. Open a few pages at random and see if the language of the book is appropriate for your child. For more detailed information on the book, consult the website *Common Sense Media*. This website contains a large book content database, including detailed information about the level of violence, mature language, and other aspects that may be concerning to you as a parent. You can also use this website to tailor a reading list for your child's age and in accordance with your limitations and preferences.

Book Report:
Please follow the guidelines provided below to write a four-paragraph response. In your essay, you will introduce yourself to your new ELA and Literature teacher and reflect upon your reading. Your response should be typed.

Paragraph 1: All About You
Introduce yourself. Please include your full name and anything you'd like your teacher to know about you. Feel free to include information about your personality, interests, and hobbies, as well as your family, pets, summer trips, activities, etc. In addition, please share what you look forward to experiencing or enjoying this year at school. What makes you concerned or apprehensive?

Paragraph 2: You and Language Arts
Reflect upon your success and concerns about the subject of Language Arts. Please share some aspects of ELA you like and enjoy. This could be reading, writing, presenting, discussing, debating, working on projects, or anything else you can think of!

- Tell about a short story, novel, or genre you like reading.
- What are some things you dislike about reading or writing?
- Are there any parts of Language Arts class that you find difficult or confusing?

Paragraph 3: Reader's Log.
Please list the books that you read this summer. Introduce each book using this format:

1. **Author's last name, First name. *The Title of the Book*. Year of publication.**
2. **Briefly explain what genre this book belongs to and why you chose this book**. Did a friend or a parent recommend it to you? Have you read similar books before? Is this book related to other media resources that sparked your interest (movie-based, video game-based, etc.)?

Paragraph 4: Choose **ONE book that you read this summer and ONE of the following prompts** for your reflection. Your answer must be written in a complete and detailed paragraph. Your answer must contain specific references to the book, (text evidence) including quotes and page numbers.

- State the title and the author of the book in the first sentence. Choose one of the central characters of the book: a protagonist, an antagonist, or a foil (second main character). Explain who this character is and why you find this character interesting. What do you like or dislike about this character? What transformation does this character go through, and how does it contribute to your interest in this book?

- State the title and the author of the book in the first sentence. Choose one of the main themes of the book. If you are not sure where to start, check out this 6-minute video for help. Understanding theme | Reading (video) | Khan Academy. Explain how you determined that this is the main theme of the book. Why do you find this theme interesting, and how does this theme relate to other books, movies, or your interests?

- State the title and the author of the book in the first sentence. For non-fiction books, explain what sparked your interest in the topic covered in this book. Is this topic important to you? Why, or why not? Have you read other books (or watched movies/documentaries) on this subject? Has this book expanded your knowledge of the

subject? If yes, explain how. If not, explain why not. Will you continue seeking out books on this subject? Why, or why not?

Below are a few favorites from sixth grade, but by no means do your books need to come from this list.

Bridsall, Jeanne
The Penderwicks

Craighead George, Jean
My Side of the Mountain

Curtis, Christopher Paul
Elijah of Buxton
Bud, Not Buddy
The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963

Gratz, Alan
War Games

Lord, Cynthia
Rules

O'Brien, Robert C.
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

Rylant, Cynthia
Missing May

Schmidt, Gary
The Wednesday Wars

Seldon, George
The Cricket in Times Square

Steinbeck, John
The Red Pony

Weeks, Sarah
So B. It

Woodson, Jacqueline
brown girl dreaming

You may also want to check out the Summer Reading Challenge starting soon at the Kansas City Public Library. It's free and all you need is a library card!

Seventh & Eighth Grade

***Reading Response requirements are on the last page**

Incoming seventh and eighth graders are required to read a minimum of two books over the summer and turn in a reading response **for one of the books they read**; suggested books can be found on the Goodreads list: STP Junior High Suggested Reading List

You do **not** have to read books from the list above; these are only some options. Make sure you are selecting the books you haven't read before.

You may also want to check out the Summer Reading Challenge starting soon at the Kansas City Public Library. It's free and all you need is a library card!

Summer Reading Response 2026
7th-8th grade

This assignment is due on the first day of school and will represent the first grade recorded for the 2026-27 school year!

Book Choice:
This summer, read a minimum of two books of your choice. The choice of books should be grade-level appropriate in content and length (at least 250 pages). We recommend choosing at least one non-fiction book. While graphic novels are an excellent source of reading, students may not use a graphic novel for their book report.

Note to parents: Your family values are important to us. We recommend that you monitor your children's reading by asking them what the book they read is about. Open a few pages at random and see if the language of the book is appropriate for your child. For more detailed information on the book, consult the website *Common Sense Media*. This website contains a large book content database, including detailed information about the level of violence, mature language, and other aspects that may be concerning to you as a parent. You can also use this website to tailor a reading list for your child's age and in accordance with your limitations and preferences.

Book Report:
Please follow the guidelines provided below to write a four-paragraph response. In your essay, you will introduce yourself to your new ELA and Literature teacher and reflect upon your reading. Your response should be typed and printed (Times New Roman 12 font, 1" margins); you are welcome to give a title to your reflection.

Note to parents: Please sign the printed copy of your student's paper to verify that your student wrote it independently and did not use an AI generator to produce this paper.
Using software such as Grammarly or QuillBot for checking grammar and spelling is acceptable.

Paragraph 1: All About You
Introduce yourself. Please include your full name and anything you'd like your teacher to know about you. Feel free to include information about your personality, interests, and hobbies, as well as your family, pets, summer trips, activities, etc. In addition, please share what you look forward to experiencing or enjoying this year at school. What makes you concerned or apprehensive?

Paragraph 2: You and Language Arts

Reflect upon your success and concerns about the subject of Language Arts. Please share, what are some things you like and enjoy about Language Arts? This could be reading, writing, presenting, discussing, debating, working on projects, or anything else you can think of!

- Tell about a short story, novel, or genre you like reading.
- What are some things you dislike about reading or writing?
- Are there any parts of the Language Arts class that you find difficult or confusing?
- List all the books that you read this summer and all the movies/shows that you watched this summer.

Paragraph 3: Reader's Log.
Please list the books that you read this summer. Introduce each book using this format:

3. **Author's last name, First name. *The Title of the Book*. Year of publication. Briefly explain what genre this book belongs to and why you chose this book**. Did a friend or a parent recommend it to you? Have you read similar books before? Is this book related to other media resources that sparked your interest (movie-based, video game-based, etc.)?

Paragraph 4: Choose **ONE book that you read this summer and ONE of the following prompts** for your reflection. Your answer must be written in a complete and detailed paragraph. Your answer must contain specific references to the book, including quotes and page numbers.

- State the title and the author of the book in the first sentence. Choose one of the central characters of the book: a protagonist, an antagonist, or a foil (second main character). Explain who this character is and why you find this character interesting. What do you like or dislike about this character? What transformation does this character go through, and how does it contribute to your interest in this book?

- State the title and the author of the book in the first sentence. Choose one of the main themes of the book. If you are not sure where to start, check out this 6-minute video for help. Understanding theme | Reading (video) | Khan Academy. Explain how you determined that this is the main theme of the book. Why do you find this theme interesting, and how does this theme relate to other books, movies, or your interests? In what new way did this book allow you to think about this theme?

- State the title and the author of the book in the first sentence. For non-fiction books, explain what sparked your interest in the topic covered in this book. Is this topic important to you? Why, or why not? Have you read other books (or watched movies/documentaries) on this subject? Has this book expanded your knowledge of the subject? If yes, explain how. If not, explain why not. Will you continue seeking out books on this subject? Why, or why not?

Recommended Summer Reading Lists for 7th and 8th Grade

You are welcome to choose from a large variety of books recommended by these resources or consult your local library.

1. Common Sense Media Books

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews

2. Vocabulary.com 8th-grade recommended reading list

https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/w65e7rza/8th-grade-recommended-reading-list

3. Award-worthy: American Library Association Young Adult Library Services Association Report

https://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklistsawards/bookawards

4. Googdreads.com 8th-grade reading list

https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/8th-grade-reading-list