

# Summer Reading 2019 ~ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



Dear 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, parents, and guardians,

I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with you beginning in August! For the upcoming school year I am offering three different options for completing your summer reading assignment. You will find descriptions of each of the options and how they will be scored in this packet. You will learn right away that there are two things about reading that I care about above all else:

- 1) *I want you to read **A LOT!** I want you to read books of your choosing that interest you. I want you to read all sorts of texts whether that is nonfiction, magazine and newspaper articles, novels, audio books, or graphic novels.*
- 2) *I want you to be honest about what you read, and come clean when you do not complete your reading. Please do not sign off that you read a book when that is not the case. Your character and honesty are far more important to me than any summer reading grade.*

In this packet you will find the 2019 and 2020 *Teen and High School Nutmeg Award* nominees. I recommend that at least one of the books you choose be from one of these lists. The other books you read do not have to be from the award lists as long as they are at least 150 pages in length and grade level appropriate. To learn more about this Connecticut book award, feel free to visit [www.nutmegaward.org](http://www.nutmegaward.org).

Remember to record each of the books that you read on the *Governor's Summer Reading Challenge* pamphlet. Please turn this in to our Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Goad, during the first week of the new school year.

**Please note that NOT ALL of the books listed will be appropriate for all readers. Please use discretion to pick books aligned with your family's beliefs and comfort level. It is not possible for me to read and preview all books students read, so please consult [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org) or [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com) to read reviews to decide if a book is appropriate for you and your family.**

*Although you must complete at least one of the assignments listed, you are encouraged to read as much as you can throughout the summer months!*

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fredrickson, Grade 8 Reading & Language Arts  
[afredrickson@westbrookctschools.org](mailto:afredrickson@westbrookctschools.org)

*This Summer Reading packet can also be accessed through the Westbrook Middle School website. Additional copies will be available in the Middle School office and the Westbrook Public Library.*

## Resources for Selecting 2<sup>nd</sup> Book



The link below is for the *American Library Association's Notable Children's Books List*. The books that make this prestigious list have received awards such as The Coretta Scott King Award, The Michael L. Printz Award, The Schneider Family Book Award and others! Many more books and short summaries can be found on this website:

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>

\*\*\*\*\*

More recommended websites that may help you find a great title for your second Summer Reading book:

[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com) (Click on "Kids" then "Books and Authors")

[www.thechildrensbookreview.com](http://www.thechildrensbookreview.com)

[http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/CTRead/Grade\\_7-Grade\\_8.pdf?la=en](http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/CTRead/Grade_7-Grade_8.pdf?la=en)

In addition to ANY of the **authors** of the *Nutmeg* books, the following authors consistently write appropriate books for middle school readers!



Avi, Wendy Mass, Gordon Korman, Neal Schusterman, Andrew Clements, Caroline Cooney, Chris Crutcher, Christopher Paul Curtis, Dan Gutman, Mike Lupica, Gary Paulsen, Matt Christopher, Johanna Hurwitz, Linda Sue Park, Patricia Reilly Giff, Erin Colfer, Cornelia Funke, Rick Riordan, Meg Cabot, Walter Dean Myers, Peg Kehret, Jacqueline Davies, Gennifer Choldenko

*Governor's Summer Reading Challenge information can be found at:*

<http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/CTRead/Connecticut-Reads>

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment Options

*For any of these options, you may choose to listen to the audio book if that helps you. Listening to audio books requires the same mental processing skills while eliminating issues with fluency. Students can actually comprehend audio books up to two grade levels ahead of their independent reading level.*

## **Option A- Listen**

For this assignment you will listen to/ read a minimum of two books. For one of the two books you will listen to the audio version with (or under the supervision of) an adult, and have them sign off that you successfully completed both books.

This is a fabulous option for anyone traveling over the summer. Use audible.com or get a book on tape from the Westbrook library to get a book for that road trip or plane ride. Visualization in key when listening to an audio book— picture the story like a movie in your head. It is highly recommended that you listen with someone else so that you can have a discussion about what you read.

## **Option B- Read Aloud**

For this assignment you must read two books of your choosing. One of the two books you must read aloud with an adult and have them sign off that you successfully completed both books.

This is a great option if you want to enjoy a good book with an adult or want to work on your fluency which means how well you read aloud. Reading aloud with an adult in your life is a great habit because it can help your comprehension and the speed at which you read in addition to fluency. You may even choose to take turns and read a page and then have your adult partner read the next. Some great times to read aloud are while your family member makes dinner, on car trips, or right before bed. Not to mention, enjoying a good book is a great way to bond! If you are really ambitious, read both books aloud!

## **Option C- Read A Lot**

For this assignment you will read at least four books of your choosing. You will have a parent or guardian sign-off to verify that you did indeed complete at least four books.

This is a great option if you love to devour books, and you don't want to be slowed down by any additional assignments. For this option, you will just need to record the books you read and have a parent or guardian sign off that you honestly completed each of them. There is a matter of trust involved here, so be honest!

## **Challenge Option- Read A Ton!!!**

For this assignment you will read at least six books of your choosing. You will have a parent or guardian sign off to verify that you did indeed complete the six books.

**Research shows that students should read six books or at least 20 minutes a day over the summer in order to not suffer from any learning loss! I challenge you to read at least six books to avoid the dreaded summer slide! Good readers make reading a habit!**

## Summer Reading Form

Please check off which option you chose to complete. There is a scoring guide on the back of this sheet.

- **Option A-** I read at least two grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer. For at least one of the books I listened to the audio version with or under the supervision of an adult.
- **Option B-** I read at least two grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer. One of the books I read aloud with an adult.
- **Option C-** I read at least four grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer.
- **Challenge Option-** I read at least six grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer! Go me!!!

	Title of Book	Author of Book	# of Pages	Did you read this book aloud with an adult?	Did you listen to the audio version of this book?
Ex.	<u>Star Girl</u>	Jerry Spinelli	186	no	yes
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

***I verify that my child has completely read all of the books listed above.***

Parent/ Guardian

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

***I verify (give my word) that I honestly and completely read all of the books I have listed above.***

Student

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## *How You Will Be Scored*

### Option A or B

100% You read/ listened to at least two grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer. One of the books you read aloud with an adult.

50% You read/ listened to at least one grade-level appropriate book aloud that was 150 pages or longer.

No Credit- You did not read at least one grade-level appropriate book aloud that was 150 pages or longer.

### Option C or Challenge Option

100% You read at least four grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer.

85% You read at least three grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer.

70% You read at least two grade-level appropriate books that were 150 pages or longer.

50% You read at least one grade-level appropriate book that was 150 pages or longer.

No Credit- You did not read at least one grade-level appropriate book aloud that was 150 pages or longer.

**You will be using your favorite summer reading book to complete a graded assignment in class your first week back at school, so please take notes if you feel you will have trouble remembering the story.**