

Summer Reading 2017 ~ 8th Grade



Dear 8th grade students, parents, and guardians,

I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with you again! 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 each will be scored in this packet. You probably already know this, but 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 non-fiction, 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 is far more important to me than any summer reading grade.

In this packet you will find lists of books that I highly recommend as well as the new *2018 Teen Nutmeg Nominees* and the *Rhode Island Middle School Book Award* nominees. One of the books that you choose should be from one of these two lists. The other books you read do not have to be from the award lists as long as they are at least 150 pages and grade level appropriate.

Remember, also, to record each of the books that you read on the attached *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 or 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

This Summer Reading packet can be accessed through the Westbrook Middle School website. Additional copies will be available in the Middle School office as well as at the Westbrook Public Library.

Resources for Selecting 2nd 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/ncb>

More recommended websites that may help you find a great title for your 2nd Summer Reading book:

www.goodreads.com www.boysread.com www.bookwink.com
www.mysteries.com www.scholastic.com www.ala.org/yalsa www.thechildrensbookreview.com

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, Richard Peck, Mike Lupica, Gary Paulsen, Matt Christopher, Johanna Hurwitz, Marty Crisp, 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://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320322>

8th 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 travelling 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. This is a great option if you 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.



Help Your Child Avoid the Summer Slide

Summer Slide: Learning loss caused by summer break.

The facts are...



3 months

• Students can lose as much as 3 months of reading skill without practice and enrichment during the summer months.



2.6 months

• On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of math computation skills during the summer months from the lack of practice.



4-6 weeks

• Teachers typically spend 4-6 weeks re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.



20 minutes

• Reading 20 minutes a day keeps reading skills progressing through the summer.



1 million

• In a school of 400 students, if each student reads 30 minutes a day over the course of a 75-day vacation, that equals a million minutes of reading.



6 or more books

• Reading 6 or more books over the summer keeps a child from losing reading skills.



95%

• 95% of libraries offer summer reading programs, 89% of libraries provide story hours for children.



1,023 hours

• In a year, the average American youth spends 900 hours in school and over 1,023 hours watching television.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)