

Entering Seventh and Eighth Grade Summer Reading 2026

Because it is important to keep learning year round, you will be reading **three** age appropriate books over the summer and responding to each with a thoughtful journal reflection of at least **ten** sentences. You may choose either fiction or non-fiction books which appeal to you and which are challenging without being too difficult. For **fiction books**, your journal reflections should include your reaction to the book, your thoughts on the book's theme (the author's message about life) and any other thoughts on the book's plot and characters. For **non-fiction books** you should write a summary about what you have learned and your reaction to this new knowledge. For those who would like to tackle an ambitious piece of writing, you may substitute an original short story of **1000-1600 words** for **one** of the required books and reflections. Your story should have an interesting plot, at least one well-developed character, and a strong theme. Your short story needs to be submitted during the first week of school. Journal reflections may be hand-written or typed and submitted during the first week of school. Your reflections will be **worth ten points each** and will become your **first graded assignment** of the new school year.

Assignment Requirements

Read three books of your choice OR two books of your choice with one original short story.

*Books with **more than 400 pages** may count as two books.

Submit one journal entry for **each book** that you read. Entries must be at least 10 sentences minimum, typed or handwritten. Please be mindful of your spelling and grammar.

A Note from Mrs. Carver

As you are reading these books, be sure to take notes of anything you find noteworthy and memorable to you. Manage your time this summer where you have a quiet space to dedicate at least 20 minutes of undisturbed reading at a time. You may read these novels all at once and complete your journal reflections or work slowly, one chapter a day, complete the reading and then begin writing your journal entries. I do not advise you to wait until the last minute to quickly read and write; devote yourself to this assignment to carefully pour into books and write all your thoughts and feelings while reading. Use this reading and writing as your private time to be alone and to meditate. Practice being still and quiet for just moments out of your summer days; this will assist you in transitioning back into the school year this fall. Take care. I look forward to seeing what books you chose. Have a great summer.