

Summer Reading 2026

Grades 5-8

This summer each grade level will read a novel. **Students will be given an assessment on the assigned novel the first full week of school in September.**

To improve comprehension, students are encouraged to take notes while reading. Focusing on the five main elements of literature will help students understand how they work together to create a cohesive narrative. The five main elements of literature - the core components that build every story - are characters, setting, plot, conflict, and theme. Understanding these elements help students analyze and appreciate the story. A detailed explanation of each element can be found on the following page.

Novels by Grade

Entering 5th Grade - *Letters From Rifka*, by Karen Hesse

Entering 6th Grade - *Wonder*, by R. J. Palacio

Entering 7th Grade - *The Westing Game*, by Ellen Raskin

Entering 8th Grade - *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz (the novel, **not the graphic novel**)

In addition to the required reading, students are encouraged to read 2-3 additional books. Your local library has many different genres and topics that will interest preteen/teen readers. Reading fuels brain development, expands vocabulary, and builds confidence for high school and beyond. Turn sunny days into reading adventures!

5 Main Elements of Literature

Character: the creation and development of the people in the story.

Setting: where and when the story takes place.

Plot: the sequence of events that occur in the story.

Conflict: the struggle a character must overcome.

Theme: the central idea or lesson about life that an author conveys.