

2025 Summer Reading Choices for Rising 6th Graders

Summer reading is mandatory for rising middle schoolers. Choose one of the options below to read this summer. Then, follow the instructions on Tic-Tac-Toe paper to complete your summer reading assignments. Complete your work and submit it to your Language Arts teacher (WITH the Tic-Tac-Toe paper) no later than:

Thursday, September 11, 2025

***Holes* by Louis Sachar**

AR Book Level: 4.6; Lexile: 660

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt**

AR Book Level: 5.9; Lexile: 990

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

Book summaries are from Amazon.com. All books are available through the Charles County Public Libraries.

Name: _____

Book: _____

Tic Tac Toe

Mark the boxes you complete. They should form a tic-tac-toe across, down or diagonally.

ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY HAND—NO TYPED RESPONSES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Turn in this paper with your work.

<input type="checkbox"/> Setting Choose a passage from the novel that helped you imagine a setting (defined as the time and place a story takes place). Copy the passage (minimum 2 paragraphs). Use colored pencils to underline the most descriptive words.	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary Are there any words in the novel that you have a difficult time understanding? List at least 15 words. Use a dictionary to define these words (correct usage). Then, write a sentence for each word which uses it correctly and includes context clues.	<input type="checkbox"/> Different Ending What events might have changed the story's ending? Change at least one key event and write an alternative ending to the story (NOT a description of how the story would change). Your new ending must be 2-3 paragraphs long.
<input type="checkbox"/> New in Class Think about one of the characters in your novel who may have a difficult time making friends. Imagine that this character is a new student in our class. Write about what you might do to help this person feel comfortable. <div style="text-align: right;">(minimum 2 paragraphs)</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acrostic Poem Make an acrostic poem out of the title of your novel. Use the letters to give a summary of the reading to complete the poem. A summary should explain all major characters and events in your novel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Create a 10-15 question comprehension test for your novel. Include an answer key on a separate piece of paper. At least 5 of your questions must require a short, written response.
<input type="checkbox"/> Character Poster Create a poster on blank paper (no larger than 8.5 x 11) to show a main character in your novel. Place the character in his or her setting and surround the character with elements from the story. Your poster should be colored with minimal white space.	<input type="checkbox"/> Conflicts A character in your novel struggles with something that they may not be able to change. Write a paragraph explaining their struggle. Then, write about a struggle you or someone close to you has had and explain how you/they handled it. <div style="text-align: right;">(minimum 2-3 paragraphs)</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> In the future? Do you think that this story could take place one hundred years from now? Why or why not? Explain your reasons in 2-3 full paragraphs.

Name _____

Date _____

Box 1: _____

Student Initial	Student Checklist:	Teacher Notes/Feedback:
_____	Project labeled (Name, Title)	
_____	Neatly handwritten work	
_____	Followed all directions	
_____	Checked spelling, grammar, and punctuation	
		Score out of 10: _____

Box 2: _____

Student Initial	Student Checklist:	Teacher Notes/Feedback:
_____	Project labeled (Name, Title)	
_____	Neatly handwritten work	
_____	Followed all directions	
_____	Checked spelling, grammar, and punctuation	
		Score out of 10: _____

Box 3: _____

Student Initial	Student Checklist:	Teacher Notes/Feedback:
_____	Project labeled (Name, Title)	
_____	Neatly handwritten work	
_____	Followed all directions	
_____	Checked spelling, grammar, and punctuation	
		Score out of 10: _____