

2025 Summer Reading Choices for Rising 7th 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 turn it in to your Language Arts teacher (WITH the Tic-Tac-Toe paper) no later than:

Thursday, September 11, 2025

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen**

AR Book Level: 5.7; Lexile: 1020

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self-pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

***Rules* by Cynthia Lord**

AR Book Level: 3.9; Lexile: 670

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors.

But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

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: _____