



SUMMER READING

RISING 8TH GRADE 2026-2027

Your Summer Reading Checklist:

- * **Book 1:** One novel from the official Battle of the Books list.
- * **Book 2:** One biography of a Catholic Saint.
- * **The Challenge:** Complete one creative activity from the choice board after reading.

Summer is just around the corner... Each rising 8th-grade student is required to read at least two books before the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Choose Your Adventure!

Adventure 1: Please select **one** book from the official list below. After finishing, pick one activity from the choice board to complete and bring to school in August.

Battle of the Books List 2026-2027

Title	Author
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	Lucy Maud Montgomery
<i>Artemis Fowl</i>	Eoin Colfer
<i>Bomb: The Race to Build - and Steal - the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i>	Steve Sheinkin
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson
<i>Countdown</i>	Deborah Wiles
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien
<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
<i>Hunger: A Tale of Courage</i>	Donna Jo Napoli
<i>The Last Cuentista</i>	Donna Barba Higuera
<i>Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan</i>	John Flanagan
<i>Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World</i>	Sy Montgomery
<i>Treasure Island</i>	Robert Louis Stevenson

Choiceboard link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15ro_UShEbbCuyqbqiN_4izN9WdTjmQK50spqk7ADLE/edit?usp=sharing

to download and print.

Adventure 2: The Spiritual Journey (Saint Biography)

In addition to the literature selection, students are asked to read one biography of a Catholic saint. Encouraging your child to explore the lives and teachings of these remarkable figures aligns beautifully with our mission to cultivate spiritual growth, offering them real-world examples of faith, compassion, and service.

Students may choose an age-appropriate biography featuring one of the following holy role models:

The Classics	The Modern Heroes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Francis of Assisi• St. Catherine of Siena• St. Jude• St. Nicholas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Teresa of Calcutta• St. Joan of Arc• St. Pier Giorgio Frassati• St. Pope John Paul II• St. Carlo Acutis

Do you have a personal confirmation saint or family patron? Students are welcome to select any other saint they feel personally inspired by! We simply ask that parents assist in selecting a biography that matches their student's independent reading level.













We pray you all have a restful, safe, and book-filled summer break. We cannot wait to see how the stories of these incredible individuals inspire our rising 8th graders in the fall!

Happy Reading!



Summer Reading Choice Board

Choose and complete **one** project from the board below based on your summer reading novel. Bring your completed project to school in August!

<p> The Movie Pitch</p> <p>Design a full-color movie poster for your book. Include a catchy tagline, the title, the author, and cast 3 real-world actors or influencers to play the main characters. On the back, write a 1-paragraph explanation of why you cast those specific people.</p>	<p> Postcard from the Plot</p> <p>Write a postcard from the perspective of the main character during the most intense turning point (climax) of the novel. Address it to another character. Describe the setting, their current emotions, and what they plan to do next using at least 150 words.</p>	<p> Map the Journey</p> <p>Draw a detailed, colorful map illustrating the setting of the book (or the journey the characters took). Label at least 5 key locations from the plot. For each location, include a 2-sentence caption explaining a major event that happened there.</p>	<p> The Alternate Ending</p> <p>Write a new final chapter or an alternate ending for your book. Your ending must keep the characters true to their personalities but change the outcome of the main conflict. Must be at least 1 full page (approx. 250–300 words).</p>
<p> Character Interview</p> <p>Write a script for a talk-show interview with the main character. Draft 5 deep, open-ended questions about their choices, struggles, and growth, and write their detailed answers in their unique voice. (Yes/no questions are not allowed!)</p>	<p> Graphic Novel Strip</p> <p>Recreate a crucial scene from the book in a 6-panel comic strip or graphic novel format. Use full color, dialogue bubbles, and captions. Focus on capturing the mood and tension of that specific moment visually.</p>	<p> The Character Playlist</p> <p>Create a 5-song playlist that represents the main character's emotional arc or the book's major themes. For each song, write a 3-sentence explanation quoting specific lyrics and connecting them directly to evidence or scenes from the book.</p>	<p> Character Capsule</p> <p>Draw a backpack or a suitcase, and fill it with 5 specific items that the main character would consider essential. Next to or below each item, sketch it out and write a 2-sentence explanation of what the item represents in their life.</p>
<p> The Merch Designer</p> <p>Design custom merchandise (a t-shirt, hoodie, or water bottle) that promotes the book's core message or theme. Your design must feature an original visual symbol and a significant quote from the novel.</p>	<p> Conflict Courtroom</p> <p>Identify the main antagonist (or the driving opposing force) in the novel. Write a 2-paragraph argumentative analysis defending or prosecuting their actions. Use at least two specific pieces of textual evidence to support your claim.</p>	<p> The Award Ceremony</p> <p>Design a physical award or medal for the main character (e.g., "The Most Resilient Friend Award"). Draw the award in detail, and write a 4-sentence acceptance speech from the character's perspective explaining why they earned it.</p>	<p> Dear Author...</p> <p>Write a formal letter to the author of your novel. Share your honest reactions to the book, ask 3 probing questions about unanswered plot points or character fates, and explain how the book changed your perspective on a real-world issue.</p>

**All projects will be graded on Completeness, Effort/Neatness, and Direct Connections to the Text.*

- Check Plus (100%): Spectacular effort. High accuracy, beautifully neat, followed all rules.
- Check (85%): Solid middle school work. Met all the requirements accurately, good effort.
- Check Minus (70% or below): Rushed or incomplete. Lacks specific details from the book or missed major guidelines.