



**English Department  
Middle School Summer Reading List 2023-2024**

Please see the summer reading books and associated assignments for each grade below. The English Department strives to foster reading skills as well as inspire a love of reading. The assignments are meant to help you focus on particular themes or aspects of the book and to prepare you for the first unit in your Language and Literature (English) courses. Please bring your chosen book(s) and completed assignment(s) to your first English class.

**BOOKS BY GRADE LEVEL**

**English 6 Required Reading: Choose at least ONE:**

- *Becoming Naomi Leon* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Restart* by Gordon Korman

**English 7 Required Reading:** *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

**Additional Required Reading (choose at least ONE):**

- *The Strangers* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Allston
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

**English 8 Required Reading:** *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield

**Additional Required Reading (choose at least ONE):**

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman
- *City of Ember* by Jean DuPrau
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *Pretties* by Scott Westerfield

## ASSIGNMENTS BY GRADE LEVEL

### English 6 Required Assignment:

1. For your **choice reading text**, respond to the following prompt: What important idea or theme does this novel convey? Be sure to include specific examples or evidence from the text to support your response. You may choose to respond in either a) a 3-5 paragraph response b) a collage or c) a movie poster or book trailer. You will present your response in your English 6 class to start the school year, so make sure to bring your book and completed assignment to your first class.

### English 7 Required Assignments:

1. For your **choice reading text**, respond to the following prompt: Highlight the ways in which one character changes throughout the course of the novel. Be sure to include specific examples or evidence from the text to support your response. You may choose to respond in either a) a 5-paragraph response b) a visual storyboard or comic with captions or c) a video 2-3 minutes in length. You will present your response in your English 7 class to start the school year, so make sure to bring your book and completed assignment to your first class.
2. For the **required text**, *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, annotate your book using the Guided Reading Suggestions provided below. These annotations will be used to support your class discussions and written work in Unit 1 of your English 7 course.

### English 8 Required Assignment:

1. For **both the required and choice texts**, annotate using the Guided Reading Suggestions provided below. These annotations will be used to support your class discussions, written work, and comprehension assessment to start your English 8 course. Make sure to bring your books and complete annotations to your first class.

## GUIDED READING SUGGESTIONS

We encourage you to jot down notes either in your book as you read or after you read in a notebook if you wish. Doing so will help you record questions you may have or important events you notice. Reading actively in this way will help you to locate passages and details in your books that may be helpful in completing coursework. Some suggested approaches are:

**Take Margin Notes:** Writing notes in the margins helps you better understand the book and supports you in talking about the book. You may choose to write words or phrases that reflect:

- comments and reactions
- one-line summaries for each chapter
- questions you have or something you don't understand
- predictions about what will happen later in the book
- anything that reminds you of another story, a current event, or an experience you've had

**Circle words:** Circling words in your book can help you see places that you may need to return to later, such as: words you do not know and names of characters or places you think may be important.