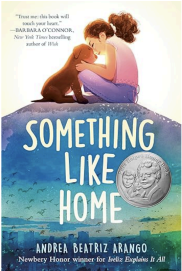
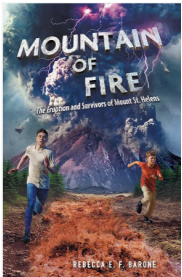
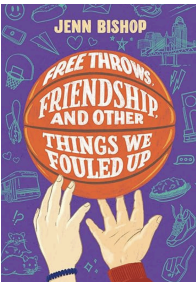
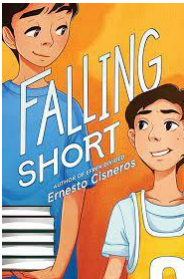



## High Rock Summer Reading List 2025

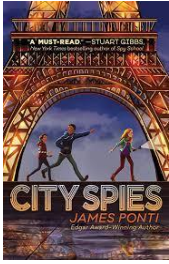
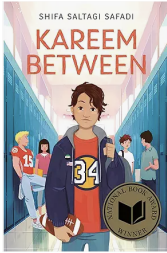
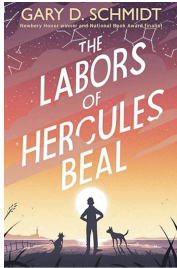

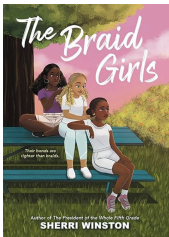
### For Rising 6th Grade

Students should read a minimum of two books over the summer. ONE of the books must be from this list. The second book is a free choice. In the fall, students will complete the summer reading sign-off form and complete an ELA assignment using their book from this list.

<p>Arango, Andrea Beatriz. <i>Something Like Home</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Laura finds an abandoned dog that provides her comfort as she gets used to living with her aunt after a heart-wrenching family situation. She hopes that training the dog to be a therapy dog will provide an opportunity to see her parents.</p>	<p>Good for dog lovers and fans of found family books such as <i>One for the Murphys</i>. A verse novel.</p>
<p>Barone, Rebecca. <i>Mountain of Fire</i> (2024)</p> 	<p>Scientists are seeing changes in Mount Saint Helens, but they aren't able to predict how it will erupt. Follow the stories of the scientists and the people in the path of destruction.</p>	<p>A nonfiction adventure that has both science behind volcanoes and the excitement of an <i>I Survived</i> book.</p>
<p>Bishop, Jen. <i>Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Abby and Rory are the daughters of rival Division I coaches—but they have more in common than they think. As they uncover the secrets behind their fathers' fractured friendship, they must decide whether they can still be friends.</p>	<p>Friendship story with strong basketball themes.</p>
<p>Ciseneros, Ernesto. <i>Falling Short</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Best friends Marco and Isaac live next door to each other. Marco is short and great at schoolwork, but he wants the approval of his dad, a basketball player. Isaac is tall and a basketball star, but he needs to bring up his grades.</p>	<p>A favorite at High Rock. Two friends starting sixth grade - a timely and relatable story.</p>

<p>Fipps, Lisa. <i>Starfish</i> (2021)</p> 	<p>Twelve year old Ellie has created a set of rules for herself about how to avoid attention to her body. A new friend and increased confidence help her stand up for herself.</p>	<p>A favorite at High Rock, especially for readers who want characters they can relate to. A verse novel.</p>
<p>Gidwitz, Adam. <i>Max in the House of Spies</i> (2024)</p> 	<p>In 1939, eleven-year-old Max Bretzfeld, a Jewish evacuee from Nazi Germany, arrives in London with a kobold and a dybbuk who sit on his shoulders and offer funny comments. Max's goal is to become a spy and save his parents.</p>	<p>For fans of historical fiction and spy stories. The sequel is also excellent! (<i>Max in the Land of Lies</i>)</p>
<p>Gratz, Alan. <i>Two Degrees</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>In three separate story lines, two girls escape from a forest fire in California, two boys encounter a polar bear in Canada, and a girl is washed away in a flood in Florida. A book on climate change that ends with the possibility of action.</p>	<p>Fans of Alan Gratz know to expect a fast moving story with characters they care about.</p>
<p>Josephson, Kalyn. <i>Ravenfall</i> (2022)</p> 	<p>Ravenfall Inn is a B&amp;B on the border between the human and the Otherworld. Anna feels she has the least useful powers in her family until Colin appears.</p>	<p>A fun fantasy full of supernatural creatures, first of a trilogy. (<i>Hollowthorn</i> 2023) (<i>Witchwood</i> Oct 2024)</p>
<p>Korman, Gordon. <i>The Superteacher Project</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>What is the deal with the new teacher? Oliver can't pull off his pranks; the teacher seems to figure out what he is doing first. Why is the teacher so good at song lyrics and trivia? Oliver and Nathan investigate.</p>	<p>Gordon Korman writes the best funny school stories. Good for readers who want a light and funny read.</p>

<p>LaRocca, Rajani. <i>Red, White, and Whole</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>When Reha's mother gets sick, Reha decides to try to be the perfect Indian daughter in hopes that her behavior will help her mother get well.</p>	<p>For fans of books that straddle two cultures. Based on the author's own experiences. A verse novel.</p>
<p>Leali, Michael. <i>The Civil War of Amos Abernathy</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Amos Abernathy seeks out a personal connection to his volunteer work at the living history museum, researching a Civil War soldier who might be LGBTQ+. A new crush makes the summer even more interesting.</p>	<p>For fans of history who are interested in social justice. Told through Amos's perspective, interspersed with letters to the Civil War soldier he is learning about.</p>
<p>Matson, Morgan. <i>Firefly Summer</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Ryanna is finally going to meet her mother's side of the family at the camp property they own. She discovers that this may be the last summer there unless she can find the paper that proves ownership. A mystery within a family story.</p>	<p>Rave reviews from High Rock students. A book about summer traditions just in time for summer reading.</p>
<p>Nielsen, Jennifer. <i>Iceberg</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Hazel stows away on the Titanic and carries a notebook to record details, hoping to publish an article. She uncovers problems with the ship and mysteries among the passengers, meaning the ship isn't the only danger she faces.</p>	<p>Another historical thriller by Nielsen, a popular author. Recommended for readers who want a fast moving story, especially for readers who enjoy Alan Gratz.</p>
<p>Nijkamp, Marieke. <i>Splinter and Ash</i> (2024)</p> 	<p>Princess Ash, who walks with a cane, and Splinter, a squire with a secret, question social norms, uncover a budding conspiracy, and fight fiercely to protect their kingdom.</p>	<p>This adventure-filled fantasy focuses on the important topics of friendship, courage, loyalty, and defying stereotypes.</p>
<p>Oh, Ellen. <i>You Are Here: Connecting Flights</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Twelve kids cross paths in a Chicago airport on a stormy July 4th, delayed after a TSA security incident. The intersecting stories are written by prominent Asian American authors.</p>	<p>The twelve stories fit together well. Readers interested in connection, resilience, and empathy will especially appreciate this award winning book.</p>

<p>Ponti, James. <i>City Spies</i> (PB 2021)</p> 	<p>Sara Martinez is facing years in juvenile detention for hacking into the foster care system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. She gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of spies.</p>	<p>A favorite fast paced mystery, first in the series. Good for fans of Stuart Gibbs.</p>
<p>Safadi, Shifa Saltagi. <i>Kareem Between</i> (2024)</p> 	<p>When Kareem doesn't make the football team, his attempts to hide his embarrassment just create more serious problems, especially for his Syrian parents. As a self-conscious 7th grader, he struggles to make the right decisions.</p>	<p>Good for readers looking for a football story. A verse novel.</p>
<p>Schmidt, Gary D. <i>The Labors of Hercules Beal</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Herc Beal receives a difficult assignment from his English teacher: recreate each of Hercules' tasks. Herc is the smallest kid in the class, he has recently lost his parents, and his older brother is taking care of him. He definitely does not feel like a hero.</p>	<p>Shows the power of connection and community. Integrates Greek mythology.</p>
<p>Thomas, Angie. <i>Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>Nic Blake is Remarkable. Getting a hellhound for a birthday present is great, but Nic wishes she knew more about her talents. Meeting her favorite author gives her some clues and sets her on a quest to save her father from the danger she has put him in.</p>	<p>Fast moving, mythological quest - great for fans of <i>The Lightning Thief</i>.</p>
<p>Winston, Sherri. <i>The Braid Girls</i> (2023)</p> 	<p>When Maggie's half sister comes to live with her, how will it change her summer plans with her best friend Daija? The three girls form a business braiding hair and face competition from a group jealous of their success.</p>	<p>For fans of friendship stories, told in chapters that rotate through the three girls' perspectives.</p>