

# Humanities Summer Reading Grade 8

Academic Year 2025-2026

## CCSC Summer Reading - 8th

**Introduction:** Community Charter School of Cambridge requires all students to complete summer reading in preparation for the upcoming academic year. This reading is mandatory and we ask that all families get copies of the required books and/or download the provided .pdf copy of the text.

❖ **Mark up the books/files with comments and questions as you read (Annotations)**

Writing in the books themselves, if you own them, will help your reading comprehension. Use a notebook or post-its if the books are borrowed.

❖ **Review the material the week before school starts – Review** the reading and your notes in order to prepare for the quiz that will be given on the book **in the first few days of school.**

❖ **Read more than just the assigned books!** – Research shows that students who read more during the summer do better in school and remember their reading skills far better than students who read less or don't read at all. Become a reading machine this summer!

### Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will read:

*Hidden Figures*, by Margot Lee Shetterly

Honors: *Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card

**Parents and Guardians:** Please help your son or daughter to complete their summer reading.

- Provide a quiet place for them to read and write.
- Ask often during the summer how the reading and the written assignments are going. ▪ Don't let them wait until the week before school starts!—that is too late to do a good job on this assignment.
- If your son or daughter uses a library book to complete the reading and written assignment, make sure they renew the book and bring it to school with them in the fall when we return.

OVER

# **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

## ***Summer Reading Expectations:***

- a) This summer, all students entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade need to read *Hidden Figures*, by Margo Lee Shetterly, a powerful, true story about the team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.
- b) Students are also *strongly* encouraged to read the honors book, *Ender's Game*, by Orson Scott Card, in which Ender, a very talented child, must join an international space fleet to save the Earth from alien invaders.
- c) In addition, all students must write a letter-essay. The details are on the next page. It is due on the first day of school.

## **In Summary**

Read *Hidden Figures*.

Write a Letter Essay about *Hidden Figures*.

Read *Ender's Game* (optional, but STRONGLY encouraged)

Read at least one book of your choosing each week this summer.

Contact Ms. Luis for suggestions or help finding books.

[dluis@ccscambridge.org](mailto:dluis@ccscambridge.org)

## Letter-Essay Instructions:

- All students must write a letter-essay about the required summer book, *Hidden Figures*. - A letter-essay is formatted like a personal letter written to your humanities teacher, but it is meant to be deep and thoughtful like a longer essay for school.
- Each of the **five** paragraphs should be **at least** 5-8 sentences long.
- Type your letter in Times New Roman Font , Size 12.
- Use the guidelines below for writing each paragraph of your letter.

Dear Humanities Teacher,

### 1. Summary

- Introduce the main characters, setting (where/when it takes place), and major plot points (what happens in *The Alchemist*).
- Make sure you talk about what happens in the beginning, middle, and end—not just one part of *Hidden Figures*.

### 2. Character Change

- Describe one specific way that one of the characters changes over the course of *Hidden Figures*. b. Make sure to use details from the beginning, middle, and end of the text.

### 3. Theme

- What are you taking away from *Hidden Figures* in terms of what this story taught you? b. Think about the big ideas of *Hidden Figures*—and what the book has you thinking about these.
- Pick one or two of these ideas and reflect on them deeply.

### 4. Personal Connection

- Which part of *Hidden Figures* did you love the most? Which part of *Hidden Figures* did you connect the most with?
- Give an example of an actual piece of text that you liked. It should be at least one sentence and no more than three. Copy it directly from the text and put it in between quotation marks: “ ” c. Then, explain why you chose this particular piece of text and why it makes you want to keep reading the story.

### 5. Just You

- What should your teacher know about you and your family?
- How would your family describe you as a person? What are some of your interests, including what colleges have you thought about? What type of profession do you want when you are older? c. Don't forget to include your favorite type of music and song choice of the year.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

If you are struggling and need help, please click [here](#) for sentence starters for this Letter Essay.

[illegible]
