

Required Summer Reading Assignments

Oxford Middle School 2026-27

Dear Rising 8th Grader,

Congratulations on completing your seventh grade year! We hope your summer is filled with fun and the long needed break you deserve. While you are enjoying your time off this summer or the comfort of sleeping an extra hour or two, we do not want you to forget the ability to appreciate a wonderful book. Parents and teachers would agree that inactive reading leads to loss of important cognitive skills you had gained throughout the school year. In order to bridge this gap, Oxford Middle School strongly enforces summer reading activities for all students. All students must complete 2 summer reading assignments before their eighth grade year begins. **Summer reading assignments are due by Friday, September 4, 2026.** These assignments will count as a grade for Language Arts. Students are required to read and complete the activities below:

Assignment

Step 1: Read **two** books. Students may choose any book appropriate for their reading level. At Oxford Middle School, we encourage students to explore their own reading interests. You are to use these 2 books to complete the required reading assignments in Step 2.

Step 2: Each student is responsible for completing **two** assignments from the choices given on the rubric below. You must complete one assignment for each book and **you cannot repeat the same choice twice**. Therefore, you will be turning in **TWO** assignments on 2 different books and you are **NOT** using the same choice selection for both assignments. (Continued)

~ Book Assignment Choices ~		
Scene It! Pick a pivotal scene from the novel to dramatize. Record the scene using digital technology. Props, musical instruments, prerecorded music, and costumes may be used. *Performances may be no longer than five minutes.*	Dear Diary! Pretend to be one of the main characters from your text and write a diary entry from their point of view. Explain how this character is thinking/feeling about a pivotal event, major decision, etc. Reflect on what is happening as well as how the character may be changed. (Must be over one page)	Book Trailer! Prepare a video trailer for your chosen text. The trailer should be 3-5 minutes long, and a positive presentation of the subject. The trailer must contain original footage, or copyright free media.
Sneaky Snoop! As an investigative reporter, you sneak into the home of the main character in your text. Report at least 10 items that you find and include a picture (hand-drawn or digital) for each item. Also, include a written Explanation (2-3 sentences per item) identifying how each item connects to the main character. These items may or may not have been mentioned in the novel...feel free to use your imagination!	Author Inquiry! Write a letter to the author of your chosen novel. Explain what you liked and disliked, ask any questions that you have about the story/characters, explain what you would have changed if you were the author, and mention at least one thing that you will always remember about this novel and why. *Should be written in letter format! Must be over one page*	Poetry Corner! Write a poem or song lyrics that connect to your text. You can focus on the plot (what happened), characters, or personal connections that you have with this text. *Must be 30 lines or longer*
Artist Alley! Create a cartoon/story board (minimum of 8 panels) that is based on your text. It may focus on a pivotal series of events or summarize the entire novel in chronological order.	Alternate Timeline! Create an alternate timeline...change a major event/decision in the text and explain how this change would have affected the characters and the plot. Would this have been a better direction for the novel to take? Why/Why not? Explain in 1 page and create a new timeline that reflects this change.	Collage! Create a collage depicting a theme from the text. Explain how this collage depicts the theme. Use colorful pictures from magazines or draw your own.