



SANDHILLS SCHOOL

Middle School Summer Reading 2026

All Middle School students should complete ONE of the Summer Reading Projects for a book of their choice. Summer projects are due by Friday, August 14, 2026.

Reading builds fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, knowledge, creativity, imagination, and improves a student's overall academic success. Because of this, regular reading is an important part of everyday life and all students are encouraged to read for approximately 20 to 30 minutes daily.

Note: Students may read books silently, aloud, with audio while following along in the book, or on an electronic device. You can find many of the recommended titles on Audible, Apple Books, Hoopla and other free and paid platforms.

For students that struggle with sitting for 20 minutes, break reading time into two sittings (10-15 minutes in the morning and 10-15 minutes before bed). Many middle school students still enjoy being read to or reading as a family!

Many libraries offer free summer reading programs, story times and other activities for ages preschool through adult. We are excited to share that Richland County Library branches offer **decodable readers!** The most extensive collection is located in the Education Studio of the Main Library at 1431 Assembly Street in Columbia, but readers are available in all branches.

For middle school students, the best book is one that they enjoy! Help your child pick books in a genre they enjoy (fiction, historical fiction, graphic novels, non-fiction) We find that many students enjoy reading books that are part of a series. Below are a list of summer reading recommendations from our Middle School team:



***Heat* by Mike Lupica**

***The Last Mapmaker* by Christina Soontornvat**

***The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman**

***No Fixed Address* by Susin Neilsen**

***Wink* by Rob Harrell**

***Faker* by Gordan Korman**

***White Fang* by Jack London**

***Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

Parents and students are encouraged to read reviews on Common Sense Media, Good Reads, or other sources to choose books that will be most appropriate and enjoyable for their student.

Middle School Summer Required Reading Project 2026

Visual & Hands-On Projects

- **The "One-Pager":** A single sheet of paper that blends art and analysis. Students must include a border of key quotes, a central image representing the theme, and "sketchnotes" summarizing the plot.
- **Book-to-Board Game:** Create a playable board game based on the book's world. The "spaces" are plot points, and the "chance cards" are character decisions or obstacles.
- **Create a Zine:** A zine (pronounced "zeen," like *magazine*) is a self-published, DIY booklet. They are handmade, small, and unique. The best way to do this is the "**one-sheet wonder**"—a single piece of paper folded into an 8-page mini-booklet.

Digital & Multimedia

- **The 90-Second Movie Trailer:** Use an app like Canva to create a high-energy trailer for the book. It should focus on the book's highlights without giving away the ending.
- **Character Podcast Interview:** Record a 3-5-minute "interview" in which one student plays the host and another (or the same student with a different voice) plays the main character. Discuss the events of the book. (without giving away the ending)
- **"In-World" News Report:** Film a "Breaking News" segment as if the book's climax is happening in real-time. Dress as a reporter, film, and share the book's rising action and climax.
- **The Book's Official Playlist:** Create a Spotify or YouTube playlist for the book. For each song, the student must write a 3-sentence explanation of which character or scene it represents and why.

Creative Writing (With a Twist)

- **The "Missing Chapter" / Epilogue:** Write a chapter that takes place five years after the book ends. How did the characters change? Did they stay friends?
- **Character Diary Entries:** Write 5-7 diary entries from the perspective of the *villain* or a *secondary character*. Show us what they were doing while the main character was busy with the plot.
- **"The Survival Guide":** If the book involves a journey or a struggle, create a manual for future characters on how to survive that world or adventure (common for dystopian or adventure novels).

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