

Hello Students,

It's summertime, and your Ford Middle School ELA teachers are encouraging you to keep reading! Statistics show that, on average, students lose 20% of the reading gains they made over the school year if they do not continue to read over the summer. *Don't let yourself become a statistic!*

Each grade level has an assigned genre for summer reading, which you'll find on the back of this letter. Students will select a book from their grade level's assigned genre. All students should consider their reading level and subject matter before selecting a book and discuss their choices with a parent/guardian. While our suggested reading list offers a wide range of options, it's important to note that some books may contain mature content. We recommend that parents/guardians review their child's book selection or seek reviews beforehand. You can preview the content of your child's book using the Common Sense Media website (commonsensemedia.org).

Don't worry! You're not alone in this. We are enlisting the help of our librarians at the Acushnet Public Library. They will be ready to help you find a book to enjoy that fits within your grade level's genre. Your participation in reading and completing the project will be your first graded assignment in your upcoming ELA class. **Your ELA teacher will collect your work by the end of the first week of school, so be ready to share about your book and your project!**

We understand that summer break is filled with various events and activities, but there's always time to fit in some reading. While many students choose to read before bed or during family vacations, you can also bring your book outdoors and enjoy reading at the beach, lake, or even during a sibling's sporting event. However you choose to do it, we're excited to see your book choices!

Happy Reading and we look forward to hearing about your reading adventures in the fall!

Sincerely,

Your FMS ELA teachers

See the back for grade-level genre assignments.

Genre Assignments by Grade

The following examples are popular suggestions from your future teachers and our current students. We encourage you to explore your assigned genre and make a choice that best fits your reading preferences. Please note that graphic novels **should not** be used for this project.

Grade/Genre	Examples	
Incoming 5th Sci-Fi/Fantasy Novels	➤ <i>Wings of Fire</i> by Tui T. Sutherland ➤ <i>Harry Potter</i> by J.K. Rowling ➤ <i>The Lightning Thief</i> by Rick Riordan ➤ <i>Among the Hidden</i> by Margaret P. Haddix ➤ <i>Dragon Rider</i> by Cornelia Funke ➤ <i>The Wild Robot</i> by Peter Brown ➤ <i>City of Ember</i> by Jeanne DuPrau ➤ <i>Serafina and the Black Cloak</i> by Robert Beatty ➤ <i>Dragons in a Bag</i> by Zetta Elliott ➤ <i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i> by Kelly Barnhill	
Incoming 6th Fiction Novels	➤ <i>Out of My Mind</i> by Sharon M. Draper ➤ <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Linda Mullaly Hunt ➤ <i>Tuck Everlasting</i> by Natalie Babbitt ➤ <i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio ➤ <i>Because of Mr. Terupt</i> by Rob Buyea ➤ <i>Blended</i> by Sharon M. Draper ➤ <i>When Life Gives You Mangos</i> by Kereen Getten ➤ <i>OCDaniel</i> by Wesley King ➤ <i>Front Desk</i> Kelly Yang	
Incoming 7th Informational/ Nonfiction Think: places, sports/teams, historic events, and favorite activities	➤ <u>Draw a Comic!</u> by JP Coover ➤ <u>Thrill Seekers: 15 Remarkable Women in Extreme Sports</u> by Ann McCallum Staats ➤ <u>All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team</u> by Christina Soontornvat ➤ <u>The Picture History Of New Bedford: 1602-1925</u> by Joseph D. Thomas ➤ <u>A Guide to Historic Acushnet: A Peaceful Resting Place Near Water</u> by Alec J Plante	
Incoming 8th Personal Narrative Biography/ Autobiography Memoir Realistic Fiction	<u>Nonfiction</u> ➤ Memoir ➤ <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacquelyn Woodson ➤ <i>Bad Boy</i> by Walter Dean Myers ➤ <i>I am Malala (Young Readers Edition?)</i> by Malala Yousafzai ➤ <i>Obsessed</i> by Allison Britz	<u>Realistic Fiction</u> ➤ <i>Monster</i> by Walter Dean Myers ➤ <i>The Outsiders</i> by S. E. Hinton ➤ <i>I Am the Cheese</i> by Robert Cormier ➤ <i>Catalyst</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson ➤ <i>If I Stay</i> by Gayle Forman

Summer Showcase Project Ideas

You may select a project from the following list, or come up with your own way to present your book.

1. Cereal Box Book Report/Book Jacket

Use a cereal box to make a book jacket. You can include everything a regular book jacket has:

- ☐ The title on the spine and front, including the author's name
- ☐ Include appropriate artwork or photos inside the cereal box
- ☐ A section on the back side for a brief summary of the book and reviews
- ☐ Section about the author on the side

2. Rewrite the Ending

- ☐ Rewrite a new ending to the book you read (not an *explanation* of how the ending should be changed)
- ☐ Be sure to write in the style of the author- stay true to the characters/setting/genre
- ☐ Separately: describe the original ending and the changes you made, and then explain why you made these changes

3. Map It

If the book contains several locations within a town, country, or geographical area

- ☐ Create a map that shows important locations in your book
- ☐ Show several different locations
- ☐ Label each location and include a drawing

4. Graphic Novel Retelling

- ☐ Create a multi-image comic/graphic novel scene book based on the novel you read
- ☐ Include an illustrated cover with the title and author and be comic book size
- ☐ Use dialogue from the story and put the writing into speech bubbles
- ☐ Follow the given descriptions of the setting and characters
- ☐ Illustrations should be colorful and accurate to the story

5. 3-D Diorama and Fact Presentation

- ☐ Use clay or model magic to create a 3-D version of the subject matter you read about (animal, place/setting, person/character, artifact)
- ☐ Make a poster or Google Slide presentation of the Top Ten Interesting Facts about your book's topic or a main character or setting

6. Glossary

- ☐ Write a glossary for the nonfiction book that you read with at least 15 terms
- ☐ Terms should be sorted alphabetically
- ☐ The terms should define the most important words, features, or events about your topic

7. Timeline (using butcher paper or poster board)

- ☐ Record the most important events in the plot, in order, from the beginning of the novel to the end
- ☐ Must follow an obvious sequence
- ☐ Write a brief description of what happens for each event
- ☐ Distinguish the time of each event with dates, seasons, special occasions, holidays, or any other information available to you
- ☐ Add pictures, clip art, word art, and symbols to make your timeline more organized and colorful
- ☐ All writing should be typed and glued or taped neatly onto your project

8. Newspaper or Magazine

- ☐ Create a newspaper that is dedicated entirely to the book you've read
- ☐ Your newspaper/magazine should represent the major events, controversial issues, and significant themes developed in the novel you read
- ☐ Make it look as real as possible (Use columns, headlines, a newspaper title, and photos, if possible)
- ☐ Incorporate at least 4 of the following newspaper/magazine features:

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|----------------------------------|--|
| • News articles/editorials | • Weather forecasts (if discussed in the story) |
| • Advice columns | • Obituary section (if relevant to the story) |
| • Comic strips | • Advertisements that are relevant to the story |
| • A horoscope for each character | • Or anything else you might find in a newspaper |

9. Amazon/GoodReads Book review

- ☐ Create a book rating that begins with how many stars you would rate your book (__/5 Stars)
 - ☐ Explain your rating, using details from the text (Ex: it took a while for the book to capture your interest, but it ended up being really excellent)
 - ☐ Explain why you did or did not enjoy the characters, plot line, or the subject of the book (Ex: I just enjoyed the way the author made jokes to keep my interest)
 - ☐ Rating is based on your own opinion of the book
- (Be careful not to give *everything* away about what you read. Your project just might inspire another classmate to pick up the same book this year.)

Performance Recording Options:

10 .Character Interview

- ☐ Write at least ten questions (not yes or no questions) to ask a main character from your book. EX:
How did you feel when _____ and what events made you feel that way?
- ☐ Roles: Have a friend/family member be the interviewer and you play the role of your main character
- ☐ Make a recording which shows you answering the interviewer's questions as if you are the character
- ☐ Your answers should be detailed and based on your character's traits and evidence from the text

11. Dramatic Scene

- ☐ Find classmates who read the same book as you
- ☐ Work together to write a script and have several rehearsals
- ☐ Make a recording of your group acting out an important scene from the book

12. Book/Movie Trailer

Create an attention-grabbing preview that will make the public want to come and see this latest release!

- ☐ Write a script giving an audience a quick look at what your book is about (Include the elements in the [Checklist For Book Trailer Script](#))
- ☐ Write and practice a script for the production of your book trailer
- ☐ Record your book trailer

13. Write and perform a song or a rap about your book

- ☐ The song should be about 1-2 minutes when performed
- ☐ Fiction readers need to include the main character, important events, and the problem or conflict in the story
- ☐ Nonfiction readers should include interesting facts about the subject matter