
2026 Required Summer Reading | ENTERING 6th – 8th Grade

Summer is a great time to relax, explore new adventures through books, and continue growing as a reader! Reading helps strengthen fluency, build vocabulary, spark imagination, expand knowledge, and maintain strong comprehension skills. To help prevent the “summer slide” that can happen during long breaks from school, students are required to complete a summer reading assignment prepared by their grade level (see below).

We have also included several reading resources and programs, many offering fun prizes and incentives to encourage students to keep reading all summer long!

- Sign up for your local library summer reading program.
- American Library Association summer reading lists: <https://www.ala.org/news/2026/04/alsc-releases-2026-summer-reading-lists>
- MWR Library Summer Reading program. Sign up and check it out at Casey Memorial Library at Fort Hood. <https://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/libraries/summer-reading-program>
- Pizza Hut Camp Book It! Meet your monthly reading goals and earn a free, one-topping personal pan pizza. <https://www.bookitprogram.com/book-it-for-parents>
- The Second Lady of the United States Summer reading challenge: Download the log. Read 12 books, earn a personalized certificate, an America 250th anniversary-themed bookmark, and a special link to receive a prize. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/read/>

Entering 6th Grade

Required reading: The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander

Entering 7th Grade

Required reading: The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Entering 8th Grade

Required reading: Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS – ASSIGNMENT (DUE THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2016)

Complete the following activities for the book you were assigned:

- Complete the Plot Diagram (see copy on the back).
- Create a graphic organizer, poster, or other creative visual showing the character traits of the protagonist and antagonist for the book you were assigned. Be creative and thoughtful in your design.

The Research is In!

Students who continue using IXL throughout the summer are more likely to maintain — and even improve — their fall assessment scores, including MAP results.

Read more about the research here: [IXL Summer Learning Research Blog](#)

Returning students will continue to have access to their IXL accounts all summer long. Just a little practice each week can make a big difference! Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep striving for excellence!

Plot Structure Diagram

TURNING POINT
(The main event between the protagonist and the antagonist or the moment for which the reader has been waiting.)

Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

RISING ACTION ⑥

(The major events that lead to the turning point.)

FALLING ACTION ⑦

(The major events that lead to the resolution.)

CHARACTERS *

Protagonist and Main Character(s)

Antagonist

SETTING *

Time

Place

CONFLICT * ③
(What's the problem between the protagonist and the antagonist?)

RESOLUTION ④

(How was the conflict solved?)

THEME

(The lesson or message the author is trying to help us understand.)

How To Figure Out the Theme

1. Actively read the text.
2. Fill out the Plot Structure Diagram (follow the circled numbers)
3. Examine the conflict, resolution and turning points.
4. Ask yourself, "What is the lesson the protagonist learned?"
5. Reword #4 so that it can apply to anyone who reads the story.

*Characters, Setting, Conflict and Mood (how the story makes you feel) combine to create the **EXPOSITION** which helps you "get into" the story, novel or movie from the very beginning.