



Lower Campus Summer Reading 2026

Summer vacation is the perfect time for reinforcing the joy of reading! While we certainly expect children to enjoy themselves and relax during the summer months, it is also imperative that they keep their minds engaged and develop a love of independent reading. Completing the recommended and required 2026 Summer Reading will enhance your child's experience and provide background for the transition to classes in the fall. **The books listed below are required for students entering grades 3-8; the books listed for grades PK-2 are recommended.** Middle School students entering grades 6-8 will complete assignments based on the summer reading in the first weeks of school.

Grades 3-8 Summer Reading:

- Grade 8**
- *White Bird: A Wonder Story* (graphic novel), by R. J. Palacio
 - *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell

- Grade 7**
- Choose **ONE** of the following:
- *Two Degrees*, by Alan Gratz
 - *The Only Road*, by Alexandra Diaz

- Grade 6**
- *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen

- Grade 5**
- Choose **ONE** of the following:
- *A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple, Mayflower, 1620*, by Kathryn Lasky
 - *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh*, by Robert C. O'Brien
 - *The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, by Bette Bao Lord

- Grade 4**
- The BFG*, by Roald Dahl

- Grade 3**
- The Chalk Box Kid*, by Clyde Robert

PK-2 Summer Reading:

For our youngest readers, we have developed two curated summer reading lists to support ongoing literacy development and to cultivate a lifelong disposition toward reading. The first supports aspiring readers, and the second supports the development of independent readers. Recognizing that early literacy is individualized and non-linear, we have included adult guidance to support purposeful engagement across shared and independent reading contexts. Above all, we encourage families to enjoy the togetherness of reading. You can find additional titles on the [Association for Library Service to Children website](#), a division of the American Library Association.

Aspiring Readers

To support early literacy development, guardians are encouraged to engage children in interactive shared reading experiences that build print awareness, oral language skills, and comprehension. Children should actively participate by handling books, turning pages, and attending to print features such as the title and author. Encourage your child to examine illustrations, make predictions, and discuss key ideas before, during, and after reading to deepen their understanding.

Suggested titles include:

The Bear Out There, by Jess Hannigan

The Blue Jays That Grew a Forest, by Lynn Street

Don't Trust Fish, by Neil Sharpson

Toto, by Hyewon Yum

Zip Zap Wickety Wack: A Story About Sharing, by Matthew Diffie

Independent Readers

To support the continued development of reading fluency, stamina, and comprehension, children beginning to read independently should select engaging texts that are within their reading ability and establish a consistent daily reading routine. Readers should work on accuracy and automaticity in decoding, expanding their vocabulary through context, and strengthening their comprehension skills by identifying key ideas, making inferences, and retelling important events in sequence.

Recommended titles include:

Elephant & Piggie series, by Mo Willems

Frog and Toad series, by Arnold Lobel

Fly Guy series, by Tedd Arnold

Fox series, by Corey R. Tabor

Stop That Mop!, by Jonathan Fenske