

# Auburn Middle School



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## Summer Reading 2021

It's been another extraordinary school year, and students are eager for some well-deserved rest and relaxation this summer. We know that remote learning has been difficult, and that all of the different transitions this year has taken a toll on everyone. It is important, however, to remember that children of all ages need to read during the summer months. On average, students lose two months of reading skills over a normal summer, and time-on-learning was already lost due to school closures. It is our focus to motivate students to create and support their own reading culture, thereby offering them greater opportunities for success in their lives. Students should read for about 30 minutes daily *year-round*. Research studies show that children who read on an almost daily basis develop much higher academic success rates than those who do not, leading to increased potential for personal choice and success as they grow.

## BOOKS BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Children who are given access to books over the summer perform 35-40% better on reading achievement tests than those without access to books.



SOURCE: Allington, Richard L., Anne McGill-Franzen, Gregory Camilli, Lucretia Williams, Jennifer Graf, Jacqueline Zeig, Courtney Zmach, and Rhonda Nowak. "Addressing Summer Reading Setback Among Economically Disadvantaged Elementary Students." *Reading Psychology* 31 5 (2010): 411-27. Web.

This booklet outlines the requirements for each grade level along with expectations of what is required of students at the start of the school year. Every student will be required to read only ONE book—a mandatory title per grade level. We are providing a list of recommended titles by grade level for students who wish to go beyond the required reading, but they are not mandatory.

Both Amazon and Barnes and Noble (online) have a variety of paperback, ebook, and audiobook versions of the required titles for sale and delivery. If you or your

child has a library card, you can borrow ebooks and audiobooks for free on any device through the Overdrive or Libby app.

Students are also encouraged to practice keyboarding skills over the summer to ensure they can effectively type on their iPads during the school year. Being able to type the recommended words per minute will also help students during the computer-based MCAS testing in English Language Arts, Mathematics and 8th grade Science.

### Recommended Typing Speed and Accuracy:

Grade	WPM	Accuracy
6	30	90%
7	35	90%
8	40	90%

The following website is a great resource for practice: [www.typingclub.com](http://www.typingclub.com)

*Happy Summer Reading!*

## Students Entering Grade 6

\* All 6th grade students will read a total of ONE book for summer reading.

**Mandatory 6th Grade Title** (all students entering sixth grade are required to read)

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

- You will take a multiple-choice quiz on *Out of My Mind* during the first month of school.
- You may use any notes you took or the novel itself. Notes are not required and will not be graded, but may be helpful.

### **Recommended Titles For Enjoyment (Not required reading):**

If you are looking to challenge yourself or for other great books to read, the 6th grade teachers suggest the titles below.

#### Nonfiction:

1. *Little Monsters: The Creatures That Live On Us and In Us* by Albert Marrin
2. *Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson* by Barry Denenberg
3. *Lincoln's Grave Robbers* by Steve Sheinkin
4. *Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem* by Roslyn Schanzer
5. *DK Life Stories: Ghandi* by Diane Bailey

#### Realistic Fiction:

1. *I Funny: A Middle School Story* by James Patterson
2. *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart
3. *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman
4. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos
5. *Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen

#### Fantasy Fiction:

1. *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
2. *The Last Kids on Earth (Last Kids on Earth Series #1)* by Max Brallier
3. *The Unwanteds (Unwanteds Series #1)* by Lisa McCann
4. *The Secret of Zoom* by Lynne Jonell
5. *The Prisoner of Cell 25 (Michael Vey Series #1)* by Richard Paul Evans

## **Students Entering Grade 7**

**\*All 7th grade students will read a total of ONE book.**

**Mandatory 7th Grade Title** (all students entering seventh grade are required to read)

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

- You will take an open-book and note multiple-choice quiz on *Stargirl* when you return to school in August.
- You must be able to participate in a class discussion of the novel (book-club-style) during the first full week of the year. *You will be assessed on your participation.* You may use any notes you took or the novel itself. Notes are not required and will not be graded, but may be helpful.

### **Recommended Titles For Enjoyment (Not required reading):**

If you are looking to challenge yourself or for other great books to read, the 7th grade teachers suggest the titles below.

1. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
2. *Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer
3. *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer
4. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
5. *Hero* by Mike Lupica
6. *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai
7. *Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool
8. *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John
9. *Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* by John Fleischman
10. *The Hive Detectives: A Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe* by Loree Griffin Burns
11. *The Greatest: Muhammad Ali* by Walter Dean Myers
12. *Counting by 7's* by Holly Goldberg Sloan
13. *I Never Had it Made (an autobiography)* by Jackie Robinson with Alfred Duckett

## **Students Entering Grade 8**

**\*All 8th grade students will read a total of ONE book.**

**Mandatory 8th Grade Title** (all students entering grade eight are required to read)

*The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall

- You will take an open-book and note multiple-choice quiz on *The Seventh Most Important Thing* when you return to school in August.
- You must be able to participate in a class discussion of the novel (book-club-style) during the first full week of the year. *You will be assessed on your participation.* You may use any notes you took or the novel itself. Notes are not required and will not be graded, but may be helpful.

### **Recommended Titles For Enjoyment (Not required reading):**

If you are looking to challenge yourself or for other great books to read, the 8th grade teachers suggest the titles below.

1. *Not If I Save You First* by Ally Carter
2. *Scythe (Arc of a Scythe Series #1)* by Neil Shusterman
3. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs
4. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children: The Graphic Novel* by Ransom Riggs and Cassandra Jean
5. *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
6. *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard
7. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
8. *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie
9. *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
10. *Flowers in the Gutter* by K.R. Gaddy
11. *Eleven Seconds* by Travis Roy and E.M. Swift
12. *March: Book One* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell
13. *Young Ben Franklin* Podcast: Season 1 (\*Not a novel. This is an audio drama that can be downloaded and listened to on any listening device. Visit [www.bestrobotever.com/young-ben-franklin](http://www.bestrobotever.com/young-ben-franklin) for episodes. There are 10 total episodes in Season 1)

## Suggestions for Note-Taking

**“If I read the books in June, I won’t remember what I read...”**

We hear this every year, *so take notes!* Notes will **NOT** be collected and graded, **HOWEVER**, you can use them on the quiz and class discussions. You may also want to wait until closer until the end of the summer to read the book so it is fresh in your mind. You can take notes any way that you want, but two-column note format will work well for the suggestions below:

- Write down each character’s name as he/she is introduced and describe each one. As you read, indicate the importance of each character in the book.
- Identify main ideas by chapter.
- Identify story elements of the novel—genre, setting, characters, conflict, climax, resolution, theme, etc.
- Summarize what happens in the book. What are the important conflicts? Note a few statements or ideas that are noteworthy or meaningful. Include page numbers.
- Annotate (highlight and make notes) if you own the book. Look for passages that are surprising, important, confusing, main ideas, or anything you think would be a good talking point. Write your reactions in the margin.

