

6/12/2026

Dear Middle School students and family,

Happy summer and happy summer reading! As a young person, one of my favorite things about getting out of school for the summer was the family trip to Walden Books for a stack of books. My prayer is that your student will find at least one book that makes their summer vacation just a little bit richer.

Attached please find a list of books appropriate for your student's grade and Lexile measure. This list includes some of my favorite books as well as titles that appear on school reading lists year after year for good reason. The first book on each list is required reading for all students in that grade. They are required to read that book and be prepared to engage in class discussion upon return to Reading Class next school year. Also, students must read two additional books this summer. Summer reading assessments will be conducted when school resumes at the end of August.

Each school year, MCA students work diligently to learn and strengthen their reading skills. A great deal of research shows that summer reading helps students retain what they have learned over the school year. This year, my main goal for Middle School summer reading is to support building a reading habit. This starts with finding books that really are of interest to your student! The list I provided contains suggested appropriate titles with their corresponding Lexile measures; however, the list can also be used as a springboard to find appropriate alternatives for your student. Middle School students may select their own books using their own Lexile score as a guide. Books with a Lexile measure not 100 points over or 50 points under your student's personal score will provide just enough challenge for growth in reading comprehension and new vocabulary acquisition. For example, a student who has a Lexile score of 950L will benefit the most from reading titles with a Lexile measure between 900L and 1050L.

I look forward to hearing about all my students' summer journeys into the written word! Should you have any questions, please contact me through my Mother Catherine Academy email address provided under my signature.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara-Ann Tuozzolo
btuozzolo@mothercatherine.org

6th Grade Summer Reading

Title	Author/Edition	Lexile Score
The Bronze Bow (required)	Speare, Elizabeth George	760
Anne of Green Gables	Montgomery, L.M.	590
The Cat Ate My Gym Suit	Danziger, Paula	610
Number the Stars	Lowry, Lois	670
Where the Red Fern Grows	Rawls, Wilson	700
Farm Team	Weaver, Will	700
Little House on the Prairie	Wilder, Laura Ingles	740
Esperanza Rising	Muñoz Ryan, Pam	750
Tuck Everlasting	Babbitt, Natalie	770
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH	O'Brien, Robert C.	790
The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Speare, Elizabeth George	850
On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness	Peterson, Andrew	860
The Hundred Dresses	Estes, Eleanor	870
James and the Giant Peach	Dahl, Roald	870
Watership Down	Adams, Richard	880
Souder	Armstrong, William H.	900
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry	Taylor, Mildred D.	920
A Single Shard	Park, Lina Sue	920
The Secret Garden	Burnett, Frances Hodgson	970
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Twain, Mark (unabridged either Puffin Classics or Penguin Classics editions)	970
Kidnapped	Stevenson, Robert Louis (unabridged)	990
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Birdsall, Jeanne	1000
The Hobbit	Tolkien, J. R. R.	1000
The Ocean of Truth: The Story of Sir Isaac Newton	Peterson, Andrew	1050
King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table	Green, Roger Lancelyn	1130
Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex	Philbrick, Nathaniel	1170
Black Ships Before Troy	Sutcliff, Rosemary	1240
Julius Ceasar	Shakespeare, William	NP (1140)

7th Grade Summer Reading

Title	Author/edition	Lexile Score
Watership Down (required)	Adams, Richard	880
Run, Boy, Run	Orlev, Uri (translated from the Hebrew by Hillel Halkin)	570
And Then There Were None	Christie, Agatha	570
The War that Saved My Life	Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly	580
Beneath the Swirling Sky	Leiloglou, Carolyn	680
Farm Team	Weaver, Will	700
Mandy	Andrews, Julie	730
A Wrinkle in Time	L'Engle, Madeleine	740
My Brother Sam is Dead	Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher	770
My Side of the Mountain	George, Jean Craighead	810
The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place	Konigsburg, E.L.	840
The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Speare, Elizabeth George	850
A Chameleon, a Boy, and a Quest	Myhre, Jennifer	850
Bloomability	Creech, Sharon	850
Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring	Tolkien, J. R. R.	860
Princess Academy	Hale, Shannon	890
Fish	Matthews, L. S.	910
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry	Taylor, Mildred D.	920
Kidnapped	Stevenson, Robert Louis	990
The Hobbit	Tolkien, J. R. R.	1000
The Hound of the Baskervilles	Arthur, Conan Doyle	1010
The Ocean of Truth: The Story of Sir Isaac Newton	Peterson, Andrew	1050
The Once and Future King	White, T. H.	1080
Amos Fortune, Free Man	Yates, Elizabeth	1090
King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table	Green, Roger Lancelyn	1130
Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex	Philbrick, Nathaniel	1170
Black Ships Before Troy	Sutcliff, Rosemary	1240
Julius Ceasar	Shakespeare, William	NP (1140)

8th Grade Summer Reading

Title	Author/edition	Lexile Score
Hatchet (required reading)	Paulsen, Gary	1020
Farm Team	Weaver, Will	700
And Then There Were None	Christie, Agatha	570
My Brother Sam is Dead	Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher	770
The Maze	Hobbs, Will	770
Inkheart	Funke, Cornelia (translated from the German by Anthea Bell)	780
The Witch of Blackbird Pond	Speare, Elizabeth George	850
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry	Taylor, Mildred D.	920
The Golden Compass	Pullman, Philip	930
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Twain, Mark (unabridged either Puffin Classics or Penguin Classics editions)	970
Adventues of Huckleberry Fin	Twain, Mark (unabridged either Puffin Classics or Penguin Classics editions)	980
Kidnapped	Stevenson, Robert Louis (unabridged)	990
The Innocence of Father Brown	Chesterton, G. K.	1010
The Ocean of Truth: The Story of Sir Isaac Newton	Peterson, Andrew	1050
The Once and Future King	White, T. H.	1080
Across Five Aprils	Hunt, Irene	1100
Call of the Wild	London, Jack (unabridged)	1120
An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic	Murphy, Jim	1130
The Scarlet Pimpernal	Orzcy, Baroness Emmuska	1140
Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage	Lansing, Alfred	1140
Great Expectations	Dickens, Charles (unabridged)	1150
Revenge of the Whale: The True Story of the Whaleship Essex	Philbrick, Nathaniel	1170
Pride and Prejudice	Austen, Jane (unabridged)	1190
Black Ships Before Troy	Sutcliff, Rosemary	1240
Why We Can't Wait	King, Martin Luther, Jr.	1300
Little Women	Alcott, Louisa May (unabridged)	1300
Julius Ceasar	Shakespeare, William	NP (1140)