



# MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

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2026-2027

Dear Middle School students,

We are excited to have the opportunity to spend the year with you as your English teachers! We know that we will learn much from you, and hopefully you will learn from us, too!

Over the summer, please read **two books**. **Choose one book from the grade-specific list below**. Please be prepared to complete an **in-class assignment about this book within the first week when we return in August**.

**Your in-class assignment** will require you to write an essay about one of the grade-specific books. You will be required to support your ideas with textual evidence, so it would be beneficial to use sticky page markers/flags and annotate the book as you read, keeping in mind potential themes such as perseverance, love, justice, courage, faith, or personal growth/maturity. Please use the annotation symbols that are attached to help you engage with the text.

**Your second book choice** should be a book you have not previously read, have 200 or more pages and is at or above your reading level.

If at any time you happen to come upon something that is inappropriate, please stop reading the book and discuss it with a parent, before abandoning the book and choosing one that is more appropriate for you. Please use your common and moral sense to guide you.

We hope you have a refreshing summer with your family and friends and can't wait to hear all about your endeavors upon our return in the fall! We are going to have a fantastic year in English and look forward to this new adventure together!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Krantz, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Mackey



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## GRADE 7

### ***The Trumpeter of Krakow* by Eric P. Kelly:**

A captivating historical novel that transports readers to the heart of medieval Poland. Filled with mystery, adventure, and a strong sense of faith, this tale follows a young boy and his family as they uncover ancient secrets and confront evil forces. Through its themes of courage, sacrifice, and the triumph of light over darkness, it instills important Christian values while sparking imaginations and fostering a love for history.

### ***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle:**

A cherished classic that invites readers into a world of wonder and imagination while exploring profound spiritual themes. Through the journey of Meg Murry and her companions, students encounter messages of love, faith, and the triumph of good over evil. Its blend of science fiction and Christian allegory sparks curiosity and fosters meaningful discussions about the power of light to overcome darkness.

### ***Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse:**

When Billie Jo is just fourteen, she must endure heart-wrenching ordeals that no child should have to face. The quiet strength she displays while dealing with unspeakable loss is as surprising as it is inspiring. Written in free verse, this award-winning story is set in the heart of the Great Depression. It chronicles Oklahoma's staggering dust storms, and the environmental--and emotional--turmoil they leave in their path. An unforgettable tribute to hope and inner strength.

### ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba:**

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land. Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world.

I verify that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, read the following two books:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

She/He has not read either of these books before this summer, nor did she/he just sit and watch the movie. She/He read both books in their entirety.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

# Annotating Reference Sheet

Annotation or Annotating text is when a reader takes short notes to record his/her thinking as they read through a text.

## This Action Requires

a highlighter



pen/pencil



sticky notes



## Good Readers:

- Identify important information
- Make connections to the text as they read from their own life
- Make predictions
- Question the text
- Ask questions
- Identify words that s/he does not know
- Make notes while they read

## In The Margins:

- Write comments next to your symbols
- React and respond
- Make inferences
- Identify literary and figurative terms

This kind of practice will help you read more closely and with great thought and understanding. As you practice, you'll develop your own system!

## Here are symbols you can use to annotate your reading:



Important thought or piece of information



Something surprising or something you did not know



Something that you agree with in the text



Something that makes you sad or you disagree with in the text



Love it! Love an idea or piece of information



Something you find confusing or puzzling



Ha! This makes you laugh or smile