

Summer Reading Assignments Middle School 2026

Incoming Sixth Grade

You will be required to read the book *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. You will read and annotate the novel and be tested on it the first or second week of school. This will be a test grade for the first marking period. You may bring and use your annotated copy of the book (or bring your **hand-written** notes). Thank you and happy reading.

Incoming 7th Grade

You will be required to read the book *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass. You will read and annotate the novel and be tested on it the first or second week of school. This will be a test grade for the first marking period. You may bring and use your annotated copy of the book (or bring your **hand-written** notes). Thank you and happy reading.

Incoming 8th Grade

You will be required to read the book *Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz* by Debbie Bornstein Holinstat and Michael Bornstein. You will read and annotate the novel and be tested on it the first or second week of school. This will be a test grade for the first marking period. You may bring and use your annotated copy of the book (or bring your **hand-written** notes). Thank you and happy reading.

**Your annotations will NOT be graded, they are to help you comprehend better and be prepared for the assessment.

Annotating notes:

Steps for Annotating Fiction

- **Preview the text**
 - Read the title, chapter title, and any illustrations.
 - Make a prediction about what the story will be about.
- **Circle unfamiliar words**
 - Mark words you do not know.
 - Use context clues to determine their meaning.
- **Highlight important details**
 - Highlight key events, actions, or information that moves the story forward.
- **Identify the setting**
 - Underline details that tell where and when the story takes place.
- **Track the characters**

- Write notes about character traits, motivations, and relationships.
- Mark evidence that reveals a character's personality.
- **Notice conflicts**
 - Put a "C" next to problems or challenges characters face.
 - Identify whether the conflict is internal or external.
- **Mark plot events**
 - Label important events as:
 - E = Exposition
 - R = Rising Action
 - CL = Climax
 - F = Falling Action
 - RE = Resolution
- **Ask questions**
 - Write questions in the margins about confusing parts or things you wonder about.
- **Make predictions**
 - Pause occasionally and write what you think will happen next.
- **Look for themes**
 - Star (*) passages that reveal important lessons or messages.
- **Identify literary devices**
 - Label examples of:
 - Simile (S)
 - Metaphor (M)
 - Personification (P)
 - Imagery (I)
 - Foreshadowing (F)
- **Make connections**
 - Write:
 - T-S = Text-to-Self
 - T-T = Text-to-Text
 - T-W = Text-to-World
- **React to the text**
 - Use symbols such as:
 - ! = Surprising
 - ♥ = Favorite part
 - ? = Confusing
 - ★ = Important
- **Summarize after each section**
 - Write 1–2 sentences explaining the most important events that occurred.
- **Review your annotations**
 - After reading, look back at your notes to identify the main plot, character development, conflict, and theme.