



Middle School (6th-8th Grade) Summer Assignments 2026-2027 Academic Year

Dear PCA Families:

Please find enclosed a list of all the required and recommended summer work for each course. The content is organized by grade level. We believe that summer work helps to keep students stimulated and keep the mind growing! Reading rates have dropped significantly among adolescents. Technology is assisting this decline and changing the nature of how we read and the definition of what is considered reading.

When it comes to summer, reading may not be the first thing kids have in mind for fun! But, reading can be fun and help prepare students for a successful year ahead. Summer reading has been proven to prevent the “summer slide” of academics - the noticeable dip in reading and/or academic skills. Students who read demonstrate better fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills - all those things that you as parents desire for your child when it comes to the standardized testing and college admissions.

In an effort to promote reading for enjoyment, the workload is not meant to be overbearing and some student choices have been added. The selected books correspond to the content and discussions for the upcoming coursework. We believe these texts not only keep the students stimulated during summer, but also prepare them for a successful start of the school year. We encourage you to have your students start their reading early and read throughout the summer months to avoid a rush at the end of summer that can produce an overall dislike for reading.

While the math assignments are not required, we encourage parents to have their students work through the attached packets as a way of reviewing important math concepts and preparing students for the next level of math. Worked solutions are included for each packet to allow for easy review.

Sincerely,

PCA Teachers & Administration

ELA is coded in Blue

Math is coded in Green

Rising 6th Grade

6th Grade ELA (all students)

All students are required to read one book -

Summer Reading: [Treasure Island](#) Robert Louis Stevenson OR [The Magician's Nephew](#) - C.S. Lewis

Summer Reading Assignment (Middle School ELA)

This assignment is designed to help students:

- Stay engaged in reading over the [summer](#)
 - Build comprehension and critical thinking skills
 - Prepare for beginning-of-year assessments in ELA
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Assignment Overview

All students are expected to:

1. Read the assigned novel(s)
 2. Keep a reading journal with guided responses
 3. Annotate the text (grades 7-12 only)
 4. Prepare for a test or project upon returning to school
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Part I: Reading Journal (All Grades)

Due: First day of school

Grade Weight: Major Grade

Students must maintain a **reading journal** while reading their assigned book(s).

Journal Requirements

For **each chapter**, students must include:

- **Brief Summary (3-5 sentences)**

- What happened in the chapter?
 - **Guided Responses** (answer most or all of the following):
 - What is the **setting** of this chapter?
 - What key events move the **plot** forward?
 - Who is the **protagonist**? What do they want?
 - Who or what is the **antagonist**?
 - What possible **themes** are emerging?
 - Identify any **imagery or vivid descriptions**
 - List **unfamiliar words** (with guessed or defined meanings)
 - **Personal Reflection (2–3 sentences)**
 - What stood out to you? Why?
-

Student Journal Worksheet ([Template](#)) for use!

Students may organize their journals using a structure like this:

Chapter #:

Summary:

Setting:

Plot Events:

Protagonist/Antagonist:

Theme(s):

Imagery:

Vocabulary:

Reflection:

Part II: Beginning-of-Year Assessment

Students should be prepared for a **graded assessment** upon returning to school.

Important Notice

- There will be a **test and/or project** based on the summer reading
- Details, prompts, and expectations will be provided during the **first week of school**

Possible Assessment Formats:

- Reading comprehension test
 - Literary analysis essay
 - Project or presentation
 - Class discussion or Socratic seminar
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Grading Breakdown

- **Reading Journal:** 70-80%
 - **Beginning-of-Year Assessment:** 20-30%
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Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete their reading independently. Online summaries should not replace reading the text.

6th Grade MATH (recommended not required)

This packet offers an **optional** review of this year's coursework to help bridge learning into the next academic year. It includes ample practice, allowing families to determine the appropriate amount of review for their child. It is recommended that students complete at least the odd-numbered problems in each section.

Worked solutions are provided to help jog your child's memory, if they have forgotten what to do.

[5th Grade Review for 6th Grade Math Summer Packet](#)

Rising 7th Grade

7th Grade ELA

All students are required to read: [The Hobbit](#) – J.R.R. Tolkien

Summer Reading: (In MS - CP 1 and H 2)

- CP: [The Hobbit](#) – J.R.R. Tolkien
- H: [The Hobbit](#) – J.R.R. Tolkien AND [The Book Thief](#) - M. Zusak

Note: For Honors, students only need to complete the Journal assignment for *The Hobbit*. Students still need to read and annotate for *The Book Thief*.

Summer Reading Assignment (Middle School **ELA**)

Assignment Overview

All students are expected to:

1. Read the assigned novel(s)
 2. Keep a reading journal with guided responses
 3. Annotate the text (grades 7–12 only)
 4. Prepare for a test or project upon returning to school
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Part I: Reading Journal (All Grades)

Due: First day of school

Grade Weight: Major Grade

Students must maintain a **reading journal** while reading their assigned book(s).

Journal Requirements

For **each chapter**, students must include:

- **Brief Summary (3–5 sentences)**

- What happened in the chapter?
 - **Guided Responses** (answer most or all of the following):
 - What is the **setting** of this chapter?
 - What key events move the **plot** forward?
 - Who is the **protagonist**? What do they want?
 - Who or what is the **antagonist**?
 - What possible **themes** are emerging?
 - Identify any **imagery or vivid descriptions**
 - List **unfamiliar words** (with guessed or defined meanings)
 - **Personal Reflection (2–3 sentences)**
 - What stood out to you? Why?
-

Student Worksheet ([Template](#))

Students may organize their journals using a structure like this:

Chapter #:

Summary:

Setting:

Plot Events:

Protagonist/Antagonist:

Theme(s):

Imagery:

Vocabulary:

Reflection:

Part II: Annotation (Grades 7–8 Only)

Due: First day of school

Grade Weight: Included with journal or separate grade (teacher discretion)

Annotation Expectations (Grades 7–8)

Students should actively annotate while reading by:

- Highlighting or marking key passages

- Writing notes in margins, sticky notes, or a notebook

Students Should Focus On:

- Character development
- Important quotes
- Themes and central ideas
- Literary devices (imagery, symbolism, etc.)
- Questions or reactions

Suggested Frequency:

- **Middle School (7–8):** 1–2 annotations per chapter
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Part III: Beginning-of-Year Assessment

Students should be prepared for a **graded assessment** upon returning to school.

Important Notice

- There will be a **test and/or project** based on the summer reading
- Details, prompts, and expectations will be provided during the **first week of school**

Possible Assessment Formats:

- Reading comprehension test
 - Literary analysis essay
 - Project or presentation
 - Class discussion or Socratic seminar
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Grading Breakdown (Suggested)

- **Reading Journal:** 50%
- **Annotation:** 20–30%

- **Beginning-of-Year Assessment:** 20–30%
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Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete their reading independently. Online summaries should not replace reading the text.

7th Grade MATH (recommended not required)

This packet offers an **optional** review of this year's coursework to help bridge learning into the next academic year. It includes ample practice, allowing families to determine the appropriate amount of review for their child. It is recommended that students complete at least the odd-numbered problems in each section.

Worked solutions are provided to help jog your child's memory, if they have forgotten what to do.

- [6th Grade Summer Math Review for Math 7](#)

Rising 8th Grade

8th Grade ELA

All students are required to read: [The Witch of Blackbird Pond](#)-Elizabeth George Speare

Summer Reading: (In MS - CP 1 and H 2)

- CP: [The Witch of Blackbird Pond](#)-Elizabeth George Speare (Colonial settlement)
- H: [The Witch of Blackbird Pond](#)-Elizabeth George Speare AND [The Hunger Games Book 1](#)-Suzanne Collins

Note: For Honors, students only need to complete the Journal assignment for *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Students still need to read and annotate for *The Book Thief*.

Summer Reading Assignment (Middle School ELA)

Assignment Overview

All students are expected to:

1. Read the assigned novel(s)
 2. Keep a reading journal with guided responses
 3. Annotate the text (grades 7-12 only)
 4. Prepare for a test or project upon returning to school
-

Part I: Reading Journal (All Grades)

Due: First day of school

Grade Weight: Major Grade

Students must maintain a **reading journal** while reading their assigned book(s).

Journal Requirements

For **each chapter**, students must include:

- **Brief Summary (3–5 sentences)**
 - What happened in the chapter?
 - **Guided Responses** (answer most or all of the following):
 - What is the **setting** of this chapter?
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 - Identify any **imagery or vivid descriptions**
 - List **unfamiliar words** (with guessed or defined meanings)
 - **Personal Reflection (2–3 sentences)**
 - What stood out to you? Why?
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Student Worksheet ([Template](#))

Students may organize their journals using a structure like this:

Chapter #:

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Setting:

Plot Events:

Protagonist/Antagonist:

Theme(s):

Imagery:

Vocabulary:

Reflection:

Part II: Annotation (Grades 7–8 Only)

Due: First day of school

Grade Weight: Included with journal or separate grade (teacher discretion)

Annotation Expectations (Grades 7–8)

Students should actively annotate while reading by:

- Highlighting or marking key passages
- Writing notes in margins, sticky notes, or a notebook

Students Should Focus On:

- Character development
- Important quotes
- Themes and central ideas
- Literary devices (imagery, symbolism, etc.)
- Questions or reactions

Suggested Frequency:

- **Middle School (7–8):** 1–2 annotations per chapter
-

Part III: Beginning-of-Year Assessment

Students should be prepared for a **graded assessment** upon returning to school.

Important Notice

- There will be a **test and/or project** based on the summer reading
- Details, prompts, and expectations will be provided during the **first week of school**

Possible Assessment Formats:

- Reading comprehension test
 - Literary analysis essay
 - Project or presentation
 - Class discussion or Socratic seminar
-

Grading Breakdown

- **Reading Journal:** 50%
 - **Annotation:** 20–30%
 - **Beginning-of-Year Assessment:** 20–30%
-

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete their reading independently. Online summaries should not replace reading the text.

8th Grade MATH (recommended not required)

This packet offers an **optional** review of this year's coursework to help bridge learning into the next academic year. It includes ample practice, allowing families to determine the appropriate amount of review for their child. It is recommended that students complete at least the odd-numbered problems in each section.

Worked solutions are provided to help jog your child's memory, if they have forgotten what to do.

- If your child was placed in Math 8/Prealgebra next year:
[Math 7 Summer Math Review for Math 8/Geometry](#)