

Dear Everyone,

It is time for school to end and summer to begin. So here comes the summer reading! Yes, you must choose a book, read it, and do a project.

Of course, I have included a long list of books that are middle school level. Everyone should be able to find an interesting book from this list.

Several books on the list are books that are part of a series. If you have read book one from a series but want to read book two or another book from the same series that will be okay.

However, if you have a favorite author or you are reading a series that is **not** on the list, you may check with me for permission to read a book that is not on the list. But your time is limited! Your book must be approved by me **BEFORE** the **LAST DAY** of school. Otherwise, you are stuck with the list of books.

There is also a list of projects that you can complete after you read your book. Please pick a project. Both the AR test and the project will be due the first week of school- August 11-15.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing everyone in August.

Sincerely,
Susan Chafin

Projects for Summer Reading- Everyone is expected to present the project to the class during the first week of school.

1. Be a Character Therapist

Therapists work to uncover their clients' fears based on their words and actions. When we read books, we must learn to use a character's actions and dialogue to infer their fears. Many plots revolve around a character's fear and the work it takes to overcome that fear. Ask students to identify a character's fear and find 8 to 10 scenes that prove this fear exists. Then have them write about ways the character overcame fear (or didn't) in the story. What might the character have done differently?

2. Cardboard Box TV

This cardboard box TV book report project is a low-tech version of a television made from a cereal box and two paper towel rolls. Students create the viewing screen cut out at the top, then insert a scroll of paper with writing and illustrations inside the box. When the cardboard roll is rotated, the story unfolds.

3. Wanted Poster

Make a Wanted poster for one of the book's main characters. Indicate whether they are wanted dead or alive. Include a picture of the character and a description of what the character is "wanted" for, three examples of the character showing this trait, and a detailed account of where the character was last seen.

4. Timeline

Create a timeline using a long roll of butcher paper, a poster board, or index cards taped together. For each event on the timeline, write a brief description of what happens. Add pictures, clip art, word art, and symbols to make the timeline livelier and more colorful.

5. Comic Strips

If you're looking for creative book report ideas for students who like graphic novels, try comic strip book reports. Include an illustrated cover with the title and author. The pages of the book should retell the story using dialogue and descriptions of the setting and characters. Of course, no comic book would be complete without copious illustrations and thought bubbles.

6. Book Report Mobile

This creative project doesn't require a fancy or expensive supply list. Students just need an ordinary hanger, strings, and paper. The body of the hanger is used to identify the book, and the cards on the strings dangling below are filled with key elements of the book, like characters, setting, and a summary.

7. Character Cards

Make trading cards (like baseball cards) for a few characters from the book. On the front side, draw the character. On the back side, make a list of their character traits and include a quote or two.

8. Book Reports in a Bag

Looking for book report ideas that really encourage creative thinking? With book reports in a bag, students read a book and write a summary. Then, they decorate a paper grocery bag with a scene from the book, place five items that represent something from the book inside the bag, and present the bag to the class

9. T-shirt Book Report

Another fun and creative idea: Create a wearable book report with a plain white tee. Come up with your own using Sharpie pens and acrylic paint. Include characters, plot, setting, and theme.

10. Book Alphabet

Choose 15 to 20 alphabet books to help give your students examples of how they work around themes. Then ask your students to create their own Book Alphabet based on the book they read. What artifacts, vocabulary words, and names reflect the important parts of the book? After they find a word to represent each letter, have them write one sentence that explains where the word fits in.

11. Create a model of a setting from the novel. Use whatever building material you would like to use.

12 Make a CD of songs that deal with the theme of the novel and create a CD cover. There should be at least 5 songs, and you must include lyrics.

13. Create a collage that depicts the theme of the novel. Must cover the entire paper background. Use an 8x11 piece of paper- NOT A POSTER.

14. Create a scrapbook that 1 of the characters could have kept. It must be 5 pages long and have a decorative cover.

15. Create a poetry anthology- at least 5 poems that illustrate major themes in the novel. Decorative cover. Also include a written explanation of how the poems connect with each other and to the novel.

16. Choose a scene from the novel and reenact it. Costumes, or reader's theatre or create puppets. You MUST write a script and turn it in after performing for class.

17. Reporter- You are a reporter. You are going to interview one /two people from your book. You write the questions and the answers (I would suggest at least ten questions). You can film your interview with this person or do it live.

18. Diorama- use a shoebox and create a scene from the novel. OR place artifacts that represent key characters or key events. Be ready to explain the scene or all the artifacts in front of the class.

19. Poster- poster should show a lot of different things from the book, such as characters, plot, setting, theme, etc. be creative.

20. Powerpoint/Google Slides- the other "traditional" project. Should be Creative include clip art, photos and descriptions of people/objects, locations from the book.

Summer Reading List- 2025 Rising 8th grade

Little Women by Alcott, Louisa May
Old Yeller by Gipson, Fred
Hatchet by Paulsen, Gary
Where the Red Fern Grows by Rawls, Wilson
The Cay by Taylor, Theodore
Anne of Green Gables by Montgomery, L.M
A Wrinkle in Time by L'Engle, Madeleine
White Fang by London, Jack
Tuck Everlasting by Babbitt, Natalie
The Runaway King by Jennifer A. Nielsen (series)
The Secret Garden by Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by Lewis, C.S. (series)
The Incredible Journey by Burnford, Sheila
The War that Saved my Life by Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker
Christy Miller Collection by Gunn, Robin Jones
The Warrior Cats by Hunter, Erin (series)
Masterminds by Korman, Gordon
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
The Princess Academy by Hale, Shannon
The Healer's Apprentice by Dickerson, Melanie
96 Miles by Esplin, J. L.
Pax by Pennypacker, Sara
The Ark, the Reed, & the Fire Cloud by Cote, Jenny L.
On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness by Peterson, Andrew
The Boy who Fell from The Stars by Dekker, Ted
The Prince Warriors by Shirer, Priscilla
Word on Fire by Nielsen, Jennifer A
City Spies by Ponti, James
Nancy Drew Mystery Stories by Keene, Carolyn (series)
Hardy Boys mystery stories by Dixon, Franklin W.(series)
Keeper of the Lost Cities by Messenger, Shannon (series)
The Doll People by Martin, Ann M.
Echo Mountain by Wolk, Lauren
The Unwanteds by Mcann, Lisa(series)
Allies by Gratz, Allen
Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder(series)
The Tale of Despereaux by DiCamillo, Kate
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by O'Brien, Robert C.
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Robinson, Barbara
A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus
The Wanderer by Creech, Sharon
Wish by O'Connor, Barbara
A Long Way from Chicago by Peck,Richard
The Great Wheel by Peck,Richard

Books for America's Battle of the Books List- potential competition for next year

City of Orphans by Greg Avi

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Breaker Boys: How a Photograph helped End Child Labor by Michael Burgan

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

On the Far Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George

Ground Zero by Alan Gratz

Number the Stars Lois Lowry

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan

Counting by 7's by Holly Sloan

Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto

When you reach me by Rebecca Stead

Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan

On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness: The Wingfeather Saga, Book 1 Christian

Action Adventure by Andrew Peterson

No Better Friend: young readers edition: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War 2 by Robert Weintraub

Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolan

Books written in verse

Alone by Megan Freeman

Wave by Diana Farid

Becoming Muhammad Ali by Kwame Alexander and James Patterson