



NHCS Summer Reading: Rising 5th-6th Grades

At NHCS, we believe that consistent reading is vital to developing critical thinking skills and a lifelong love for learning. This summer, students are **required to select one book from the left-hand column**—which they may read independently, read aloud with an adult, or listen to as an audiobook—and pair it with **one project from the right-hand column**. Your completed project must be turned in on the **first day of school**, where it will be recorded as your first Language Arts grade of the first term.

- Angeli, Marguerite de. *The Door in the Wall*
- Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan* (Series)
- Benge, Janet & Geoff. *Christian Heroes: Then & Now* (Series)
- Brown, Peter. *Wild Robot* (Series)
- Carolyn, Keene. *Nancy Drew* (Series)
- Dekker, Ted. *And They Found Dragons* (Series); *Millie Maven* (Series)
- DiCamillo, Kate. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*
- Dixon, Franklin W. *Hardy Boys* (Series)
- Freedman, Russell. *The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane*
- George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain* (Series)
- George, Jessica Day. *Tuesdays at the Castle*
- Gibbs, Stuart. *Fun Jungle, Last Musketeer, and Moon Base Alpha* (Series)
- Glaser, Karina Yan. *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* (Series)
- Grabenstein, Chris. *Mr. Lemoncello's Library* (Series)
- Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy* (Series)
- Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Fish in a Tree*
- Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*
- Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*
- Pene du Bois, William. *The Twenty-One Balloons*
- Rawls, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*
- Selden, George. *The Cricket in Times Square*
- Shirer, Priscilla. *The Prince Warriors* (Series)
- Smith, S. D. *The Green Ember* (Series)
- Sobol, Donald. *Encyclopedia Brown* (Series)
- Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived* (Series)
- Various Authors. *Who Was?* (Series)

Option 1: Alternate Book Jacket

Fold a sheet of paper in half like a book cover to design a completely original jacket.

- Front Cover: Create a new title and an entirely original cover illustration (do not copy the book's real cover).
- Inside Left: Write a one paragraph (6-8 sentences) summary introducing the main conflict of the book. You want to hook a potential reader and make them want to buy the book.
- Inside Right / Back: Write one paragraph (6-8 sentences) describing the main character of the book (their actions, thoughts, choices, and character traits). Write one sentence explaining the moral or biblical lesson the book teaches.

Option 2: The Graphic Novel Page

Pick the chapter from the book that includes the climax (turning point) of the story and turn it into a single-page comic strip.

- Format: Draw a comic grid of 6 to 8 panels on a single blank page.
- Content: Use captions for the action and speech bubbles for the character dialogue to retell the key parts of the chapter. Every panel must be fully colored.
- Back: On the back of the paper, write a paragraph (5-7 sentences) describing what the climax of the book was and how the characters reacted to it.

Option 3: Interview with a Character

Write a script for a brief question and answer session with the main character, taking place after the book's final events.

- Format: Write 5 thoughtful, probing questions from an interviewer's perspective. Two of the questions should focus on a difficult choice that the character had to make in the book.
- Execution: Write 5 realistic, in-character responses that show an understanding of how that character grew, changed, or relied on their values throughout the story.