



NHCS Summer Reading: Rising 7th-8th 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.

- Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women
- Black, Chuck. Kingdom's Dawn (Series)
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. The War That Saved My Life
- Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts (Series)
- Forbes, Esther. Johnny Tremain
- Freedman, Russell. Lincoln: A Photobiography
- Gray, Elizabeth Janet. Adam of the Road
- Haddix, Margaret Peterson. The Missing (Series)
- Jacques, Brian. Redwall (Series)
- Lamb, Charles and Mary. Tales from Shakespeare
- Latham, Jean Lee. Carry On, Mr. Bowditch
- Lin, Grace. Starry River of the Sky; When the Sea Turned to Silver
- Lollar, Phil. The Blackgaard Chronicles (series)
- London, Jack. The Call of the Wild; White Fang
- MacDonald, George. The Princess and the Goblin
- McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. The Golden Goblet
- Montgomery, L.M. Anne of Green Gables
- Nielsen, Jennifer A. A Night Divided
- Raskin, Ellen. The Westing Game
- Sutcliffe, Rosemary. Black Ships Before Troy (Iliad) or The Wanderings of Odysseus (Odyssey)
- Taylor, Mildred D. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
- Yates, Elizabeth. Amos Fortune, Free Man

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 theme or moral lesson of the book. Explain how the main character's choices and growth prove this theme or lesson.

Option 2: The Graphic Novel Page

Create one page from a graphic novel based on the book that shows the climax (turning point) and resolution (how things are settled) in the book.

- 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 events of the climax and resolution. Every panel must be fully colored.
- Back: On the back of the paper, write a paragraph (6-8 sentences) describing why the scene was the climax. Include how the story would have changed if the main characters had made different choices.

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 6 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, and one question should focus on how the character changed over time.
- Execution: Write 6 realistic, in-character responses that show an understanding of how that character grew, changed, or relied on their values throughout the story.