

Recommended Websites and reading for all students for this summer:

Commonlit.org :

Parents can create an account and assign articles that the students read, annotate, and answer questions to.

https://www.commonlit.org/en/parents_and_guardians

No Red Ink:

Allows students to work on grammatical and writing skills. Parents can create their own free account and their student joins their class.

<https://noredink.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/203729905> This link explains the program and how parents can sign up. Websites:

<https://www.cpalms.org/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

<https://www.brainpop.com/>

<https://florida.pbslearningmedia.org/>

<https://www.icivics.org>

Recommended Reading:

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/10-books-for-middle-schoolers-to-read-over-the-summer>

***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, ages 10+**

What It's About: Raised in both South Carolina and New York, author Jacqueline Woodson shares tales of her upbringing through Jim Crow and Civil Rights in the '60s and '70s. Told completely in verse, Woodson's book details cherished memories about her grandparents, pop culture, new friends, and living in both the segregated country and diverse city streets.

Why Read It? Woodson's award-winning memoir (National Book Award, Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Author Award) is funny and sad and everything in between. The intimate and engaging poems will teach middle schoolers about a complicated time in American history, but it's also a universal story about coming of age, changing family dynamics, and learning what makes you uniquely talented.

***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, ages 10+**

What It's About: Before she was the youngest Noble Peace Prize winner, Malala Yousafzai was a young Pashtun girl who loved to learn in her hometown of Pakistan's Swat Valley. Although her mother was illiterate, Malala grew up in a girls' school run by her father. A curious, precocious learner who firmly believed in a girl's God-given right to learn, Malala was considered a blasphemous troublemaker by the Taliban, and in 2012 she was shot by a Taliban gunman. She survived and refused to be silenced.

Why Read It? Educating girls is a global human rights issue, and Malala's story teaches young readers that even the youngest advocate can have a huge impact. As Malala explains, in countries "where women aren't allowed to go out in public without a man,

we girls traveled far and wide inside the pages of our books. In a land where many women can't read the prices in the markets, we did multiplication ... we ran as free as the wind."

Murder Is Bad Manners by Robin Stevens, ages 10+

What It's About: In 1930s Hong Kong, a Chinese Anglophile sends his 13-year-old daughter Hazel Wong to boarding school in England. When she arrives at the perpetually dark and damp Deepdean School for Girls, Hazel is in awe of the young (and mean) English girls she meets. Still, she connects with plucky and beautiful Daisy Wells, who asks Hazel to be the Watson to her Holmes. There's not much sleuthing for the girls to do until Hazel discovers the dead body of the science mistress -- but by the time Hazel runs back with Daisy, the body has mysteriously disappeared.

Why Read It? This boarding-school mystery in a historical setting is written in the tradition of *Nancy Drew* with a dash of *Veronica Mars* humor and Hogwarts excitement. Although the main characters are girls, boys will enjoy the Holmes-and-Watson-style (or should we say Wells-and-Wong) adventures in figuring out what in the world is happening around them.

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip M. Hoose, ages 12+

What It's About: During WWII, Denmark didn't resist Nazi occupation, and this deeply shamed 15-year-old Knud Pedersen, who along with his brother and some classmates started a small, secret club of political resisters in 1941. Full of brave but naïve teenage boys desperate to undermine the Nazi regime, the Churchill Club committed 25 acts of sabotage -- disabling German vehicles, stealing Nazi arms, and destroying and defacing German property -- before being arrested in 1942.

Why Read It? What middle schooler doesn't want to read about teens who defied authority for the greater good? The Churchill Club's actions sound like something out of a movie, but they really happened, and Hoose interweaves his own historical nonfiction with recollections from Pedersen himself. This is the kind of book students would gladly read for history class, because the characters are such courageous, clever young heroes.

Undertow by Michael Buckley, ages 13+

What It's About: Coney Island native Lyric Walker has a family secret: She's part "Sirena." So when 30,000 Alpha, a five-nation race (Sirena being among them) of beautiful but violent humanoid sea warriors, land on her beach, she knows this means trouble. Lyric's New York City beach town turns into a militarized zone with the Alpha on one side and humans on another. Then Lyric is asked to give Fathom, the gorgeous and militant Alpha prince, reading lessons, and sparks fly. Which side will she choose?

Why Read It? Described as a combination of *The 5th Wave* and *Twilight* with sea creatures, this romantic dystopian fantasy seems to have enough action, war, and adventure to balance out the fiery romance, making it an equally compelling choice for any kid who wants to start reading a popular new series.

Finding Audrey by Sophie Kinsella, ages 12+

What It's About: Fourteen-year-old Audrey struggles with severe anxiety stemming from unspecified school bullying. She is under a doctor's care and making slow but steady progress, but things significantly change when Audrey meets her brother's online gaming friend, Linus. Despite her social anxiety, Audrey finds it easy to talk to Linus, and their friendship eventually turns into a sweet romance.

Why Read It? Best-selling author Kinsella, who's best known for her popular Shopaholic series, delivers her first young adult novel, a realistic contemporary story about social anxiety and gaming addiction that's nevertheless filled with her infectious brand of humor and romance. A book featuring a young teen protagonist, tough issues, humor, and a quirky, close-knit family? Sounds like an ideal mother-daughter read.

Recommended Websites for Math Practice:

www.IXL.com

www.KhanAcademy.org

Looking to take a course for high school credit:

www.flvs.net

Students create accounts and request courses. This should be done with parents. We then will contact parents to verify and approve the course.

Courses with M/J are for middle school. If you choose to take a middle school course please make sure it is not one you already have credit for in school.

All other courses are for high school credit. We recommend electives or HOPE (Health Occupations and Physical Education) if looking to take a class. We suggest only taking one course to be successful and earn a high grade. It does go into your high school GPA. In high school it is required to take a virtual class. If it is a semester long course then you only have to take the semester class. If it is a year-long course like HOPE then it is required to complete all of it which is two semesters. HOPE is the required PE course for high school and cannot be waived. Our 8th graders have the option of taking Personal Fitness during school which is a half credit high school PE course. They can then take either in high school another half of any PE course or another PE course online.