Instructions for summer reading in Upper School

• All students must read the required books by grade.
• The required books for each grade are listed below.
• 6th graders must read 3 additional books. 7th and 8th graders must read 2 additional books.
• All other books must be on the lists on the following pages.
• Students may read books from their grade list or from the list for the grades above them.
• Older students may NOT choose titles selected for earlier grades.
• The summer reading books form the basis for the first discussions and assignments of the school year, so make sure you read them thoughtfully and carefully. If you read them early in the summer, review them before the first day of school.
• Spread out your reading over the whole summer for maximum benefit. In other words, don’t read fast at the beginning of the summer to “get it over with,” and don’t procrastinate and ruin the last two weeks of the summer.

Required books for English classes by grade:

Grade 6: The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Grade 7: The Bitter Side of Sweet by Tara Sullivan and Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

Grade 8: Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
When you return to school in August, bring with you a list of the titles and authors of the books you read this summer. Your teacher will collect this list.

Please investigate the plots of the books on the following pages at your local library or online to find out which ones might appeal to you. Your English teacher will be happy to help you make choices. The lists offer a wide variety of books for a wide range of readers. Some of the books have difficult language; some of the books have difficult content. Select with care and consult with your parents. They have great recommendations to make!

Sixth Grade

The Cuckoo Tree Aiken, Joan
The Crossover Alexander, Kwame
Kit’s Wilderness Almond, David
Skellig Almond, David
Chains Anderson, Laurie Halse
Forge Anderson, Laurie Halse
The Girl Who Drank the Moon Barnhill, Kelly
Squashed Bauer, Joan
The House with the Clock in its Walls Bellairs, John
The Shakespeare Stealer Blackwood, Gary
Caught! Nabbing History’s Most Wated Bragg, Georgia
The Perfect Score Buyea, Rob
The Storm Runner Cervantes, J.C.
The White Mountains Christopher, John
The Hunger Games (series) Collins, Suzanne
The Watsons Go to Birmingham Curtis, Christopher Paul
The Journey of Little Charlie Curtis, Christopher Paul
Catherine, Called Birdy Cushman, Karen
The Serpent’s Secret DasGupta, Sayantani
The City of Ember Duprau, Jeanne
Enchantress from the Stars Engdahl, Sylvia Louise
The Game of Silence Erdrich, Louise
The Black Stallion Farley, Walter
Inkheart Funke, Cornelia
The Thief Lord Funke, Cornelia
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, Gemeinhart, Dan
The House of Dies Drear Hamilton, Virginia
Eventown Haydu, Corey Ann
The Music of Dolphins Hesse, Karen
No Promises in the Wind Hunt, Irene
Redwall Jacques, Brian
Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America Jarrow, Gail
Mark of the Dragonfly Johnson, Jaleigh
The Parker Inheritance Johnson, Varian
Charmed Life Jones, Diana Wynne
Amina’s Voice Kahn, Hena
When You Trap a Tiger Keller, Tae
Hello, Universe Kelly, Erin Entrada
We Dream of Space, Kelly, Erin Entrada
The View From Saturday Konigsburg, E.L.
The Wreckers Lawrence, Iain
The Mysterious Benedict Society Lee, Trenton
It Wasn’t Me Levy, Dana Alison
Number the Stars Lowry, Lois
Birdwing Martin, Rafe
Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky Mbalia, Kwame
Stop the Train! McCaughrean, Geraldine
Merci Suarez Changes Gears, Medina, Meg
Breakout! Messner, Kate
Planet Earth is Blue Panteleakos, Nicole
When My Name Was Keoko Park, Linda Sue
Hatchet series Paulsen, Gary
The Seventh Most Important Thing Pearsall, Shelley
A Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories Peck, Richard
The Wee Free Men Pratchett, Terry
The Golden Compass (series) Pullman, Philip
*The Westing Game* Raskin, Ellen
*Ghost* Reynolds, Jason
*Holes* Sachar, Louis
*Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Gary Schmidt
*Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* Sheinkin, Steve
*Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race Across America* Sheinkin, Steve
*Oddballs: Stories* Sleator, William
*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* Speare, Elizabeth George
*A Wish in the Dark*, Soontornvat, Christina
*The Amulet of Samarkand* Stroud, Jonathan
*Chasing King's Killer* by Swanson, James L.
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* Taylor, Mildred D.
*The 11:11 Wish* by Tomsic, Kim
*Other Words for Home* Warga, Jasmine
*Beyond the Bright Sea* Wolk, Lauren
*Brown Girl Dreaming* Woodson, Jacqueline
*Harbor Me* Woodson, Jacqueline

**Seventh Grade**

*Little Women* Alcott, Louisa May
*The Six* Alpert, Mark
*Posted* Anderson, John David
*Fever* Anderson, Laurie Halse
*The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge* Anderson, M.T.
*Foundation trilogy* Asimov, Isaac
*Nothing But the Truth* Avi
*The Lost Years of Merlin* Barron, T.A.
*Peter & the Starcatchers (Series)* Barry, Dave and Pearson, Ridley
*Rules of the Road* Bauer, Joan
*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* Bowling, Dusti
*The Benefits of Being an Octopus* Braden, Ann
*The Moves Make the Man* Brooks, Bruce
*The Good Earth* Buck, Pearl S.
*The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* Cartaya, Pablo
Ready Player One Cline, Ernest
The Goats Cole, Brock
Artemis Fowl Colfer, Eoin
Matched Condie, Ally
The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle Connor, Leslie
The Rag and Bone Shop Cormier, Robert
The Seeing Stone: Arthur Trilogy Crossley-Holland, Kevin
Ironman Crutcher, Chris
Remember Me to Harold Square Danziger, Paula
The Maze Runner & series Dashner, James
On the Devil’s Court Deuker, Carl
The Hound of the Baskervilles Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan
Killing Mr. Griffin Duncan, Lois
Hour of the Bees Eagar, Lindsay
The House of the Scorpion Farmer, Nancy
The Sea of Trolls Farmer, Nancy
A Fate Totally Worse Than Death Fleischman, Paul
Phineas Gage Fleischman, Paul
The Diary of a Young Girl Frank, Anne
Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation Gibbs, Stuart
The Inquisitor’s Tale Gidwitz, Adam
An Abundance of Katherines Green, John
Paper Towns Green, John
Double Identity Haddix, Margaret Peterson
The Goose Girl Hale, Shannon
Out of the Dust Hesse, Karen
Full Cicada Moon Hilton, Marilyn
The Outsiders Hinton, S.E.
The Night Diary Hirandani, Veera
Secret Soldiers, Hutton, Keely
Last Days of Summer Kluger, Steve
The Contender Lipsyte, Robert
White Fang London, Jack
I Am Number Four Lore, Pittacus
Miracle on 49th Street Lupica, Mike
Travel Team Lupica, Mike
Nectar in a Sieve Markandaya, Kamala
In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse Marshall III, Joseph
After the Rain Mazer, Norma Fox
Dragonflight McCaffrey, Anne
The Hero and the Crown McKinley, Robin
Far, Far Away McNeal, Tom
Mary, Bloody Mary Meyer, Carolyn
My Dog Skip Morris, Willie
Bad Boy: A Memoir Myers, Walter Dean
Everything Sad is Untrue Nayeri, Daniel
The Traitor's Game Neilson, Jennifer A.
Left for Dead Nelson, Pete
Rascal North, Sterling
Winterdance Paulsen, Gary
The Sherwood Ring Pope, Elizabeth Marie
The Ruby in the Smoke Pullman, Philip
The Yearling Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
Harry Potter series Rowling, J.K.
Echo Ryan, Pam Muñoz
Amal Unbound Saeed, Aisha
The Blackthorn Key Sands, Kevin
Under the Blood-Red Sun Salisbury, Graham
The Cage Sender, Ruth Minsky
The Schwa Was Here Shusterman, Neal
The Bronze Bow Speare, Elizabeth G.
Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind Staples, Suzanne Fisher
Goodbye, Stranger Stead, Rebecca
Treasure Island Stevenson, R.L.
The Hobbit Tolkien, J.R.R.
Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune Turner, Sheila S.
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court Twain, Mark
Homecoming Voigt, Cynthia
The Runner Voigt, Cynthia
Farewell to Manzanar Wakatsuki, Jeanne
Deathwatch  White, Robb
Genesis Begins Again  Williams, Alicia D.
Wolf Hollow  Wolk, Lauren
Child of the Owl  Yep, Laurence
The Devil’s Arithmetic  Yolen, Jane

Eighth Grade
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy  Adams, Douglas
Speak  Anderson, Laurie Halse
Thirsty  Anderson, M.T.
City of Saints and Thieves  Anderson, Natalie C.
Winesburg, Ohio  Anderson, Sherwood
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings  Angelou, Maya
The Boy Who Dared Bartoletti  Susan Campbell
Tamsin  Beagle, Peter S.
The Day Lincoln Was Shot  Bishop, Jim
Something Wicked This Way Comes  Bradbury, Ray
Dandelion Wine  Bradbury, Ray
A Great and Terrible Beauty  Bray, Libba
A Walk in the Woods  Bryson, Bill
In a Sunburned Country  Bryson, Bill
Breakfast at Tiffany’s  Capote, Truman
Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish  Cartaya, Pablo
Summerland  Chabon, Michael
We Are Not Free  Chee, Traci
Orphan Train  Kline, Christina Baker
House on Mango Street  Cisneros, Sandra
The Hunt for Red October  Clancy, Tom
Childhood’s End  Clarke, Arthur C.
Labyrinth Lost  Córdova, Zoraida
Ball Don’t Lie  de la Pena, Matt
The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch  Delaney, Joseph
Rebecca  du Maurier, Daphne
The Three Musketeers  Dumas, Alexandre
Zeitoun Eggers, Dave
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius Eggers, Dave
The Eyre Affair Fforde, Jasper
Flour Babies Fine, Ann
The Great Gatsby Fitzgerald, F. Scott
Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West Fleming, Candace
Borrowed Finery Fox, Paula
Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight Fuller, Alexandra
Troy Geras, Adele
Apple (Skin to the Core) Gansworth, Eric
Outliers Gladwell, Malcolm
The Princess Bride Goldman, William
Grenade Gratz, Alan
Defy the Stars Gray, Claudia
Snow Falling on Cedars Guterson, David
Scalpel and the Soul Hamilton, Allan J.
Beowulf Heaney, Seamus
October Sky Hickam, Homer
Unbroken Hillenbrand, Laura
Lost Horizon Hilton, James
Blackbird House Hoffman, Alice
An Innocent Soldier Holub, Josef
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club Hoose, Phillip
Steve Jobs Isaacson, Walter
OCDaniel King, Wesley
Shoeless Joe Kinsella, W. P.
Endurance Lansing, Alfred
B for Buster Lawrence, Iain
A Wizard of Earthsea Le Guin, Ursula K.
Outrun the Moon Lee, Stacey
Warcross Lu, Marie
A River Runs Through It Maclean, Norman
Life of Pi Martel, Yann
The Last Mission Mazer, Harry
All the Stars Denied McCall, Guadalupe Garcia
Indigo’s Star McKay, Hilary
Shackleton’s Stowaway McKernan, Victoria
Acceleration McNamee, Graham
All We Have Left Mills, Wendy
A Death in China Montalbano, John Private
Peaceful Morpurgo, Michael
Hoops Myers, Walter Dean
The Sky is Everywhere Nelson, Jandy
Master and Commander O’Brien, Patrick
The Things They Carried O’Brien, Tim
Animal Farm Orwell, George
Harris and Me: A Summer Remembered Paulsen, Gary
Among the Barons Peterson, Margaret
In the Heart of the Sea Philbrick, Nathaniel
The Measure of a Man Poitier, Sidney
True Grit Portis, Charles
Silver Linings Playbook Quick, Matthew
The Bull from the Sea Renault, Mary
Long Way Down Reynolds, Jason
Black Brother, Black Brother Rhodes, Jewell Parker
An Ordinary Man Rusesabagina, Paul
Persepolis Satrapi, Marjane
Endangered Schreiber, Eliot
The Hired Girl Schiltz, Laura Amy
Salt to the Sea Sepetys, Ruta
Killer Angels Shaara, Michael
Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War Sheinkin, Steve
Ghost Soldiers Sides, Hampton
Prep Sittenfeld, Curtis
Kipling’s Choice Spillbeen, Geert
The Crystal Cave Stewart, Mary
The Help Stockett, Katherine
The Joy Luck Club Tan, Amy
Surviving the Applewhites Tolan, Stephanie S.
The Lord of the Rings Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Age 13 1/4, Townsend, Sue

Deathwatch White, Robb

This Boy’s Life Wolff, Tobias

Soldier X Wulffson, Don

Challenge

Watership Down Adams, Richard

Americanah Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian Alexie, Sherman

Ripper Allende, Isabel

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents Alvarez, Julia

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Angelou, Maya

Pride and Prejudice Austen, Jane

Lexicon Barry, Max

Why the French Don’t Like Headscarves Bowen, John R.

Flags of Our Fathers Bradley and Powers

Jane Eyre Bronte, Charlotte

Year of Wonders Brooks, Geraldine

Meta Math! Chaitin, Gregory

The House Girl Conklin, Tara

Great Expectations Dickens, Charles

Blood & Beauty Dunant, Sarah

Would You Kill the Fat Man? Edmonds, David

The Circle Eggers, Dave

The Sports Gene Epstein, David

Like Water for Chocolate Esquivel, Laura

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet Ford, Jamie

The Ocean at the End of the Lane Gaiman, Neil

Lord of the Flies Golding, William

Death Be Not Proud Gunther, John

The Old Man and the Sea Hemingway, Ernest

Seabiscuit Hillenbrand, Laura

Hackers and Hacking Holt and Schell

New Boy Houston, Julian

The Opposite of Loneliness Keegan, Marina
One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest Kesey, Ken
The Attack Khadra, Yasmina
A Separate Peace Knowles, John
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History Kolbert, Elizabeth
Who Owns the Future? Lanier, Jaron
China Boy Lee, Gus
The Natural Malamud, Bernard
Pablo Picasso at the Lapin Agile Martin, Steve
The Good Lord Bird McBride, James
Twelve Years a Slave Northup, Solomon
The Chosen Potok, Chaim
Hamlet’s Blackberry Powers, William
All Quiet on the Western Front Remarque, Erich Maria
Nyxia Reintgen, Scott
The Gift of Adversity Rosenthal, Norman
The Grapes of Wrath Steinbeck, John
Slaughterhouse-Five Vonnegut, Kurt
What if reading is hard for me?

Reading is never a passive activity. However, if you find that don’t understand or remember what you are reading, your brain is behaving passively. You need to engage it. Try the following:

1. Set a purpose for reading. It has to be more than, “I have to read this book because Renbrook teachers told me to.” Look at the book and decide what it has to offer you: information you don’t know, experiences you don’t have, characters you would never meet, a place you’ve never been...

2. Remind yourself of that purpose every time you pick up the book. You can write the purpose you set on a sticky note on the book’s cover so that it’s easy to remember. Then as you read, mark the pages that fulfill the purpose you set. To mark the pages, you can fold upper corners of pages -- or use removeable sticky notes if it’s a book you don’t own.

3. Read with a pencil in your hand, and underline words you don’t know. After you come to a stopping point, flip back to your underlines and read the sentences with the words again. Can you guess at a meaning? If you have five or more underlined words on every page, you need to read with a dictionary at hand or pick an easier book. Ebooks that offer instant definitions can be great for helping you understand words, but don’t slow down your reading pace to look up every word you don’t know. Let your brain have a second chance at understanding the word from its context.

4. Use the margins to make question marks, exclamation points, stars, or other symbols that indicate a confusing moment, a surprising turn of events, a section you really liked (or hated).

5. Fold page corners when something confusing happens. Keep reading for a few pages, and if you still don’t get it, return to just before the folded page and start again.

6. When you’re done reading, you’re not done. Go back over the book -- all the marks, sticky notes, and corners. Sit and think about the book. Draw a picture, write a paragraph, look up reviews of the book online, or research something from the book that you didn’t know. Extending your experience of the book beyond the pages will help you remember the book -- and you’ll be a better reader next time around!