



Renbrook School Gr. 6-8 Summer Reading List 2023

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.
- Students must read an additional 3 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 Humanities/English classes by grade:

Grade 6: Choice between *Refugee* by Alan Gratz and *Aru Shah and the End of Time* by Roshani Chokshi

Grade 7: *The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan

Grade 8: *All the Stars Denied* by Guadalupe Garcia McCall and *Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin (both required)

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 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 Crossover Alexander, Kwame
Kit's Wilderness Almond, David
Amari and the Night Brothers Alston, B.B.
Chains Anderson, Laurie Halse
Iveliz Explains it All Arango, Beatriz
The Girl Who Drank the Moon Barnhill, Kelly
The House with the Clock in its Walls Bellairs, John
The Shakespeare Stealer Blackwood, Gary
The Canyon's Edge Bowling, Dusti
Caught! Nabbing History's Most Wanted Bragg, Georgia
Rez Dogs Bruchac, Joseph
The Storm Runner Cervantes, J.C.
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
The Game of Silence Erdrich, Louise
The Black Stallion Farley, Walter
Unsettled Faruqi, Reem
Starfish Fipps, Lisa
Inkheart Funke Cornelia

The Thief Lord Funke Cornelia
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise Gemeinhart, Dan
Eventown Haydu, Corey Ann
The Music of Dolphins Hesse, Karen
The Lion of Mars Holm, Jennifer L.
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
Amina's Voice Kahn, Hena
American as Paneer Pie Kelkar, Supiya
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.
Linked Korman, Gordon
Red, White, and Whole LaRocca, Rajani
It Wasn't Me Levy Dana Alison
Show Me a Sign Lezotte, Ann Clare
Number the Stars Lowry, Lois
Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky Mbalia, Kwame
Merci Suarez Changes Gears Medina, Meg
Breakout! Messner, Kate
Pony Palacio, R.J.
Planet Earth is Blue Panteleakos, Nicole
Prairie Lotus 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

Harry Potter series Rowling, J.K.
Holes Sachar, Louis
Pay Attention, Carter Jones Schmidt, Gary
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
The Witch of Blackbird Pond Speare, Elizabeth George
A Wish in the Dark Soontornvat, Christina
The Mysterious Benedict Society Stewart, Trenton Lee
The Amulet of Samarkand Stroud, Jonathan
Chasing King's Killer Swanson, James L.
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Taylor, Mildred D.
The 11:11 Wish Tomsic, Kim
Beyond the Bright Sea Wolk, Lauren
Turtle Boy Wolkenstein, M. Evan
Before the Ever After Woodson, Jacqueline
Harbor Me Woodson, Jacqueline

Seventh Grade

Little Women Alcott, Louisa May
The Six Alpert, Mark
Posted Anderson, John David
Stowaway 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
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus Bowling, Dusti
The Benefits of Being an Octopus Braden, Ann
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora Cartaya, Pablo
Ready Player One Cline, Ernest
Artemis Fowl Colfer, Eoin
The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle Connor Leslie

The Rag and Bone Shop Cormier, Robert
The Maze Runner Dashner, James
The Hound of the Baskervilles Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan
Hour of the Bees Eagar, Lindsay
96 Miles Esplin, J.L.
The Sea of Trolls Farmer, Nancy
Dress Coded Firestone, Carrie
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
Out of the Dust Hesse, Karen
The Last Cuentista Higuera, Donna Barb
Full Cicada Moon Hilton, Marilyn
The Night Diary Hiranani, Veera
Alias Anna Hood, Susan
Secret Soldiers Hutton, Keely
White Fang London, Jack
I Am Number Four Lore, Pittacus
Miracle on 49th Street Lupica, Mike
Travel Team Lupica, Mike
Freewater Luqman-Dawson, Amina
In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse Marshall III, Joseph
Dragonflight McCaffrey, Anne
Far, Far Away McNeal, Tom
Bad Boy: A Memoir Myers, Walter Dean
Everything Sad is Untrue Nayeri, Daniel
The Traitor's Game Neilsen, Jennifer A.
Left for Dead Nelson, Pete
Bloom Opper, Kenneth
Winterdance Paulsen, Gary
The Ruby in the Smoke Pullman, Philip
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
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
Piecing Me Together Watson, Renee
Genesis Begins Again Williams, Alicia D.
Wolf Hollow Wolk, Lauren
The Devil's Arithmetic Yolen, Jane
Worser Ziegler, Jennifer

Eighth Grade

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Adams, Douglas
The Weight of Our Sky Alkaf, Hanna
Speak Anderson, Laurie Halse
Thirsty Anderson, M.T.
City of Saints and Thieves Anderson, Natalie C.
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Angelou, Maya
The Boy Who Dared Bartoletti, Susan Campbell
Something Wicked This Way Comes Bradbury, Ray
A Walk in the Woods Bryson, Bill
Breakfast at Tiffany's Capote, Truman
Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish Cartaya, Pablo
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

The Last Apprentice: Revenge of the Witch Delaney, Joseph
The Three Musketeers Dumas, Alexandre
Zeitoun Eggers, Dave
A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius Eggers, Dave
Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West Fleming, Candace
Apple (Skin to the Core) Gansworth, Eric
Outliers Gladwell, Malcolm
The Princess Bride Goldman, William
Grenade Gratz, Alan
Beasts of Prey Gray, Ayana
Defy the Stars Gray, Claudia
Beowulf Heaney, Seamus
October Sky Hickam, Homer
Unbroken Hillenbrand, Laura
Blackbird House Hoffman, Alice
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club Hoose, Phillip
OCD King, Wesley
The House in the Cerulean Sea Klune, T.J.
Girl in Translation Kwok, Jean
B for Buster Lawrence, Iain
A Wizard of Earthsea Le Guin, Ursula K.
Outrun the Moon Lee, Stacey
A River Runs Through It Maclean, Norman
Life of Pi Martel, Yann
All We Have Left Mills, Wendy
Hoops Myers, Walter Dean
The Things They Carried O'Brien, Tim
Animal Farm Orwell, George
Gone to the Woods Paulsen, Gary
In the Heart of the Sea Philbrick, Nathaniel
True Grit Portis, Charles
Silver Linings Playbook Quick, Matthew
Long Way Down Reynolds, Jason
Black Brother, Black Brother Rhodes, Jewell Parker

Persepolis Satrapi, Marjane
Endangered Schrefer, Eliot
The Hired Girl Schiltz, Laura Amy
Gallant Schwab, V.E.
Salt to the Sea Sepetys, Ruta
I Must Betray You Sepetys, Ruta
Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War Sheinkin, Steve
Ghost Soldiers Sides, Hampton
Prep Sittenfeld, Curtis
All My Rage Tahir, Sabaa
The Joy Luck Club Tan, Amy
Concrete Rose Thomas, Angie
The Lord of the Rings Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Enigma Game Wein, Elizabeth
This Boy's Life Wolff, Tobias
Dragon Hoops Yang, Gene Luen

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
The Firekeeper's Daughter Boulley, Angeline
Flags of Our Fathers Bradley and Powers
Jane Eyre Bronte, Charlotte
Year of Wonders Brooks, Geraldine
The House Girl Conklin, Tara
Great Expectations Dickens, Charles

Blood & Beauty Dunant, Sarah
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
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 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
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:

Set a purpose for reading. It must 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...

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.

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.

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).

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.

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!