

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment School Year 2026-2027

DUE DATE – FRIDAYM AUGUST 21ST

Hello VCS 8th graders!

I hope that you're having a good summer so far! Here is your much anticipated summer reading assignment, because independent reading is one of the best things you can do for your brain!!! So many studies show that reading just 20 minutes a day will increase your vocabulary, elevate your reading comprehension, and will help you understand your other school subjects better. Please read through this entire document to find specific requirements for each part of the assignment.

Part one is to read through the book of Proverbs and write a reflection on each chapter.

Part two is to choose one book from the following book list to read. When you have completed your reading, please complete a "one pager" for each novel. **Honors students will need to pick two novels to read.** *Please choose books from different genres. For example, choose one realistic fiction and one autobiography, or one historical fiction and one science fiction.*

The "one pager" and the reflections should be ready to turn in the first week of school. Please ensure you are paying attention to writing complete sentences with a focus on capitalization, punctuation, and complete thoughts.

You are welcome to read an additional book and complete another one pager for extra-credit.

For my avid readers who will read more books than just the ones on the book list, I would love to hear about your favorite books and series come August!

If you have questions, you may email me at vgriffin@victory.com. Praying you all have a restful, relaxing summer, and I can't wait to see you in class!

--- Mrs. Griffin

8th Grade Book Menu Summer Reading Assignment 26/27

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Genre: Science Fiction, Book Level 4.7

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.3

thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

Watership Down by Richard Adams

Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Book Level 6.2

Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

A Place for Peter by Elizabeth Yates

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.7

A Place for Peter, a fiction by Elizabeth Yates, insightfully depicts a boy's struggle to become a man. In this sequel to the Newbery Honor book Mountain Born, Peter endeavors to prove to his father that he is dependable. As he throws himself into the work of the farm, he grows into strength and into his father's trust. But the ultimate test of his courage comes from the fangs of a rattlesnake.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.9

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to

contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

Grace, Gold, & Glory: My Leap of Faith by Gabriel Douglas with Michelle Burford

Genre: Biography, Book Level 6.3

In the 2012 London Olympics, US gymnast Gabrielle Douglas stole hearts and flew high as the All Around Gold Medal winner and the brightest star of the US gold-medal-winning women's gymnastics team. That same year, Gabrielle was also named the 2012 Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation. In this personal autobiography, *Grace, Gold, and Glory: My Leap of Faith*, Gabrielle tells her story of faith, perseverance, and determination. Walk with Gabby Douglas through her journey of faith and what her family overcame, from the time she first entered a gymnasium to her gold-medal winning performances, demonstrating to readers ages 13 and up that they can reach their dreams when they let themselves soar.

Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson by Katherine Johnson

Genre: Autobiography, Book Level 7.1

As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. In school she quickly skipped ahead several grades and was soon studying complex equations with the support of a professor who saw great promise in her. But ability and opportunity did not always go hand in hand. As an African American and a girl growing up in an era of brutal racism and sexism, Katherine faced daily challenges. Still, she lived her life with her father's words in mind: "You are no better than anyone else, and nobody else is better than you." In the early 1950s, Katherine was thrilled to join the organization that would become NASA. She worked on many of NASA's biggest projects including the Apollo 11 mission that landed the first men on the moon.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin

Genre: Biography, Book Level 6.8

Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner- Before these men became legends, they met in 1907 at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in the history of America's favorite sport. Called "the team that invented football," Carlisle's innovative squad challenged the greatest, most elite teams—Harvard, Yale, Army—audaciously vowing to take their place among the nation's football powers. This is an astonishing underdog sports story—and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. It's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Genre: Young Adult, Book Level 7.1

The four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—face good times and bad while growing up in a small New England town. Their father is away, serving as a chaplain for the Union in the Civil War, and the family has fallen on hard times financially. Yet their wise and patient mother, Marmee, guides them through every twist and turn. The girls play games, make friends, have adventures, learn from disappointments, fall in love, and strive to follow their dreams as they grow into young women.

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart

Genre: Mystery, Book Level 5.6

“Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?” Dozens of children respond to this peculiar newspaper ad and are put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children - two boys and two girls - succeed. Their challenge: a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it, they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they’ll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies

Assignment Instructions

Part One: Reflections on Proverbs

Read a chapter of Proverbs a day for thirty-one days. While you read, make note of the verses that stand out to you. How can a rising 8th grader apply these verses to his or her life? Why is this application important? What would the benefits of it be? For each chapter, write a reflective paragraph (3-5 sentences) that answers these questions and explores other ideas connected to the verse. Your thoughts are important. Please write these in a composition notebook or a journal that you can turn in to me. This will be due the first week back to school. Be prepared to discuss your thoughts.

Part Two: One Pager

A one pager is a creative representation of a story that blends meaningful illustrations with language. Do not panic - you will not be graded on the quality of your drawing but on the thoughtful choice of colors, symbols, objects, and background that connect to the story’s plot, characters and themes.

Your One Pager must be on blank regular sized paper and include the following:

- The title of the novel and the author’s name.
- One theme from the novel - what is the comment on life that you believe the author is trying to make? Write this in a complete sentence.
- Illustrate a symbol from the novel and explain the symbolism in a sentence.
- Write a brief three sentence summary of the book.

- Explain who is your favorite, or least favorite, character and why.
- Include the setting, conflict, and point of view
- Include 2 or more illustrations that are directly related to the novel somehow.
- You must fill the entire page.
- Your page must be colored.

