

Summer Reading 8th Grade 2023-2024

Students should select a book at or above their minimum ZPD from their last STAR Test to read and complete a book jacket on.

*Students should avoid the following books which will be used in class: **The Giver**, **Four Perfect Pebbles**, **Fever 1793**, **To Kill A Mockingbird**, and **The Book Thief**.*

The book cannot be one that a student has taken an AR test on.

Some book selection recommendations:

Absolutely Truly: A Pumpkin Falls Mystery by Heather Vogel Frederick Truly Lovejoy is accustomed to change. Her father's military career means they move often. But the kind of change that comes when her father loses an arm in Afghanistan and decides to move the family to middle-of-nowhere Pumpkin Falls to take over the family bookstore is a little more than Truly can handle. ©2014 **AR 5.4**

Ali Cross by James Patterson Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? ©2019 **AR 4.6**

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! ©2016 **AR 4.8**

The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's list by Leon Leyson The only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. ©2015 **AR 7.0**

Code Girls: The True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII by Lizz Mundy More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. military. These women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. ©2018 **AR 7.7**

Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan Lost and alone in a forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. ©2014 **AR 4.9**

Endurance: My Year in Space and How I Got There (Young Readers Edition) by Scott Kelly Discover the extreme challenges of long-term spaceflight, the pressures of living in close quarters with people from many countries, the extremely dangerous risk of colliding with space junk and the unnerving feeling of not being able to help if tragedy strikes at home. ©2018 AR 7.3

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan The novel focuses on Esperanza, the only daughter of wealthy Mexican parents, and the events that occur after her father's murder and her subsequent move to California due to the actions of Esperanza's uncles, Tio Luis and Tio Marco. ©2002 AR 5.3

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith All Ida Mae wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II. ©2010 AR 4.3

I Kill the Mockingbird by Paul Acampora When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. ©2015 AR 4.1

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story by Linda Sue Park The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. ©2011 AR 5

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. ©2018 AR 5.4

The Red Bandanna by Tom Rinaldi Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Readers will be fascinated by the story of an ordinary man who did extraordinary work to save the lives of others while sacrificing his own. ©2017 AR 6.7

Refugee by Alan Gratz Historical novel that braids the stories of three young refugees in three different time periods and settings: 1938 Berlin, 1994 Cuba, and 2015 Syria. The circumstances of all the kids and families are dire, and their journeys are fraught with imminent danger. ©2017 AR 5.3

Resistance by Jennifer Nielsen Chaya Lindner is a teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Simply being Jewish places her in danger of being killed or sent to the camps. After her little sister is taken away, her younger brother disappears, and her parents all but give up hope, Chaya is determined to make a difference. ©2018 **AR 5.8**

Restart by Gordon Korman Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again. ©2017 **AR 5.1**

Terror at Bottle Creek by Watt Key In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, thirteen-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf Coast hurricane. Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Category 3 storm makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills-and bravery-to the test. ©2016 **AR 4.4**

You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen by Carole Brown Weatherford I WANT YOU! says the poster of Uncle Sam. But if you're a young black man in 1940, he doesn't want you in the cockpit of a war plane. Yet you are determined not to let that stop your dream of flying. ©2016 **AR 6.0** Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Older Children

Book Jacket Summer Reading Activity

For this project you will design a book jacket to demonstrate your understanding of your summer reading book. This project will be due on the first day of class.

Supplies: 8.5 x 14 inches (Legal Sized)

Directions:

- 1) Fold your paper in half and re-open it flat on the table. Fold the two sides in half again so you have a middle fold and two flaps.

2.5 in.	4.5 in.	4.5 in.	2.5 in.
1	2	3	4

- 2) On the front, number each pane;, beginning at the left with one and proceed across to four. See the diagram above.
- 3) Turn the paper over and continue numbering from the left with five and end with eight.

2.5 in.	4.5 in.	4.5 in.	2.5 in.
5	6	7	8

- 4) Follow the directions on the back of this page about what to put on each panel.

Putting It All Together

Book Review/Panel 1: This is the back flap. You should write a response to the book here. It will be your review of the book. It should include your rating of the book. Don't forget to explain your reasons with details.

Summary/Panel 2: This is the back cover. Write a two or three paragraph summary of the book that highlights the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Remember, the summary states the facts, not what you thought about the book.

Front Cover/Panel 3: This is the front cover. In this section you need the title, author's name, your name, the date and an interesting picture. *Do not copy the cover of your book. Be original with your illustration!*

The Setting/Panel 4: This is the front inside flap. Describe the setting of the story here.

Vocabulary/Panel 5: This is the inside back flap. As you read your book, look up words you don't know. As you come across them, use a post it to mark the page in the book. You will need to find at least five new words. List them alphabetically, and write their definitions, the sentence they were used in, and the page number they appeared on. Finally, write a meaningful sentence of your own using the word. (You will continue this on Panel 8)

Main Character/Panel 6 and 7: This is the inside flap. Use creative lettering to write the name of the main character. As you read the book, think of at least 3 adjectives that describe him or her. Use a post it to mark places where the character is showing a particular characteristic. Focus on describing internal qualities, not just physical attributes. These adjectives should be words that you do not use in your everyday vocabulary. For example, don't use words like nice, happy, or smart, to describe the character. On Panels 6 and 7, write about the character. Start with a topic sentence that states at least three of their characteristics. Next, using examples from the book, explain how and why this character displayed those characteristics. (For example, if the character is caring, write about one example from the book where the character showed how caring they are.) Do this for each characteristic.

Leave some space to include a picture of your character on these panels.

Vocabulary/Panel 8: (continued from panel 5) This is the inside back flap. Follow the same directions from Panel 5.

Book Jacket Report Rubric

CC STD	Your Name & #	4	3	2	1
W. 1	Panel 1: Your personal response to the story is written in a well-developed paragraph. You tell why you liked or disliked the book, and you support your response with examples from the book. Your response focuses on the main character, or the setting, or the plot.				
RL.3 W.2	Panel 2: The summary includes two or three complete paragraphs that highlight the beginning, middle, and end of the story. You include only the facts from the story. You do not include your personal opinion.				
PDW.4	Panel 3: The cover of your book jacket includes your name, the author's name, and the book's title. The illustration is creatively designed and relates to the book's theme.				
RL.3	Panel 4: The setting is thoroughly described.				
L.4	Panel 5 and 8: Five new words are listed alphabetically and defined. The page number they appear on is written along with the sentence it was used in. A meaningful sentence of your own is written.				
RL.3, R9a	Panel 6 and 7: The name of the main character is written in nice lettering and at least three vivid words describe the main character. Each characteristic is backed with an example from the book. The writing is clear and the character is described in depth.				
W.4	The overall presentation is creative and well organized. You have written neatly in cursive, using your best handwriting.				
SL.4	You speak loudly and clearly as you present your book report to the class. You look at your audience.				
L1, 2 & 3	Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are correct.				
		Score _____/36			

x 2 = Total Score:
172

