



8th Grade Summer Reading 2026

Greetings, rising 8th graders!

You are required to read two books over the summer: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway (ISBN 9780684801223) and a book of your choice from the attached list. If possible, please get a physical copy of *The Old Man and the Sea* so you can bring it to school. It will be the basis for the first unit of study in your literature class. *Tip*: consider reading the other book first so *The Old Man and the Sea* will be fresh in your mind when school starts!

For your second book, you may choose any book from the list provided for your grade level. Please choose a book you have never read. For students who entered ECCS in later grades, we highly recommend that you read titles from the curriculum, such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*, that you might have missed. After reading the work you select from the list, you should write a book report that follows the general format below:

Paragraph I: Introduce the book, including the title, author, major characters, setting, information about the author, etc. Do not refer to yourself or the assignment in this paragraph.

Paragraph II: Describe the basic plot briefly but thoroughly (7-8 sentences).

Paragraph III: Describe the major conflict and how it is resolved. Every story has some kind of conflict between characters or some obstacle the characters must overcome. What is the central conflict or obstacle in the story? Describe this and how it is overcome.

Paragraph IV: Discuss the theme and/or spiritual truths evident in the story. Every story also has a moral or message. What do you think is the moral or message the author is trying to get across? How does he or she express this moral or message?

Paragraph V: Describe what you did not like about the book, if anything. Then describe what you did like about it. Since you are giving your personal opinion in this paragraph, you may use first-person point of view (*I, me, etc.*).

Other requirements:

- Typed (to turn in electronically)
- Double-spaced
- 500-750 words long
- Use present tense when discussing a work of literature
- At least one quotation from the story (with page number in parentheses)
- MLA format including heading and page numbering
- Works Cited page
 - At the end of your paper, begin a new page.
 - Center the title, Works Cited, at the top.
 - The entry should look like this:

Author's Last Name, Author's First Name. *Book Title*. Publishing company, year of publication.

- Type the following statement at the bottom of the last page: "I have read this book in its entirety, and all written work is my own." "Sign" this statement by writing your full name after it. By typing and signing this statement, you are affirming that **you have read the whole book and not copied (plagiarized) anyone else's work in the essay, including copying anything off the internet or using any kind of electronic tool.**
- **Plagiarism or use of AI is cheating and will result in a zero on the assignment.**
- Due on 2nd day of school in Google Classroom

The grades associated with summer reading can be really helpful in getting your literature grade off to a great start if you take advantage of them. If you have questions about the summer reading, please feel free to email me.

Happy Reading!

Dr. Wendy Kautz

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8th Grade Outside Reading List, 2026-2027

Important note: All editions must be unabridged.

1. Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Men*
2. Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*
3. Alexander, Lloyd. *The Chronicles of Prydain* (any book in the series, starting with *The Book of Three*)
4. Austen, Jane. Any of her six novels
5. Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*
6. Dickens, Charles. *David Copperfield*
7. Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*
8. Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*
9. Frank, Anne. *The Diary of Anne Frank* (autobiography)
10. George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*
11. Golding, William. *The Lord of the Flies*
12. Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small*
13. Hoyle, K.B. *The Gateway Chronicles* (any book in the series, starting with *The Six*)
14. Jacques, Brian. *Redwall* (or any subsequent title in the series)
15. L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time* (or any subsequent title in the series)
16. Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia* (any TWO books in the series. You may reread these if you have read them before.)
17. London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*
18. London, Jack. *White Fang*
19. Lowry, Lois. *Gathering Blue* or subsequent titles in the *Giver* series
20. MacDonald, George. *The Princess and the Goblin*
21. Marshall, Catherine. *Christy*
22. Montgomery, Lucy Maud. Any of the sequel titles in the *Anne of Green Gables* series
23. O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*
24. Olsen, Bruce. *Bruchko*
25. Orczy, Baroness. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*
26. Rawlings, Marjorie K. *The Yearling*
27. Shakespeare, William. Any play **except** those in the curriculum (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*)
28. Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Kidnapped*
29. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
30. Sutcliffe, Rosemary. *Black Ships Before Troy*
31. Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Fellowship of the Ring* (or any subsequent title in the series)
32. Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Silmarillion* (prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* series)
33. Verne, Jules. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*
34. Verne, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*

35. Wells, H.G. *War of the Worlds*
36. Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *Little House on the Prairie* (any of the series. If you read *Little House in the Big Woods*, you must also read *Little House on the Prairie* because of the lower reading level of *Big Woods*.)
37. Wilson, N.D. *100 Cupboards* series
38. Wilson, N.D. *Leepike Ridge*

If you were not at ECCS for the following years, we recommend that you read books you missed from our curriculum, as follows:

5th:

1. Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*
2. Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*
3. Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*
4. Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*
5. Wyss, Johann. *The Swiss Family Robinson*

6th:

1. Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*
2. Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*
3. Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (or any subsequent title in the series)
4. Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

7th:

1. Lewis, C.S. *The Screwtape Letters*
2. Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*
3. Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*
4. Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*
5. Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*