

2026 Summer Reading Assignment for Rising 8th Grade

Dear Rising 8th Grader,

Congratulations on finishing your seventh-grade year with your fantastic teachers and peers at Holy Redeemer! Over the summer, we ask that you relax, enjoy some special family time, try something new, and don't forget to read!

Speaking of reading, Mrs. Enkiri and I have been discussing books a lot! We selected a novel that *every* 8th grader will be expected to read this summer. The title of the book is The Westing Game, and it is written by Ellen Raskin. This book is readily available in bookstores (new and secondhand!).

As a part of your reading of this book, you will be expected to *annotate* the text like we did in sixth grade. Your handwriting must be legible, and you may use highlighter and pencil to make your annotations. **As a reminder, solely underlining and highlighting is not annotating.** This book will be turned in for a grade on the first day of school.

You may choose one other book to read from the list below for your enjoyment. I will have a brief, fun quiz on what happened in the book for you to take when you return to school. 😊 That will be your **only assignment** for the second book. 😊

2nd Book Selections: (Your choice whether or not to annotate!)

Patina, Jason Reynolds

Continue the story of Ghost and his track team with the second book in the series, Patina. If you are new to HR and have not read the first book, Ghost, please read it instead!

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (**Young Readers Edition**), Malala Yousafzai

This is the story of Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist who was shot by the Taliban for advocating for girls' education. It chronicles her family's life in Swat Valley, their passion for education, and Malala's journey from a young girl determined to go to school to an international

symbol of peaceful protest. The book also explores the cultural and political landscape of Pakistan and the Taliban's impact on education.

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

This is the story of young Jim Hawkins, who discovers a treasure map and embarks on a voyage with a group of men, including the cunning Long John Silver, in search of a buried fortune. The journey to Treasure Island is fraught with danger as Silver leads a mutiny, creating a conflict between the treasure-seeking crew and the pirate infiltrators. A classic every middle school reader will enjoy!

Harry Potter series, JK Rowling

Because you enjoyed our Harry Potter unit so much in seventh grade, I decided to offer you the opportunity to continue your journey! If you decide to go this route, please email me (k.parker@hrs-ken.org) and let me know the book you will be reading. Don't forget to cc a parent/adult guardian on the email. 😊

So, as a recap, you need to read two books this summer; of course, read more if possible! Have a wonderful summer and please reach out to me via email if you should have any questions. My email is k.parker@hrs-ken.org. Please ask permission from a parent to contact me, and cc a parent on the email. I cannot wait for eighth-grade literature class!

Sincerely,

Ms. Parker 😊

Middle School Literature and 8th Grade Homeroom

Holy Redeemer Catholic School