

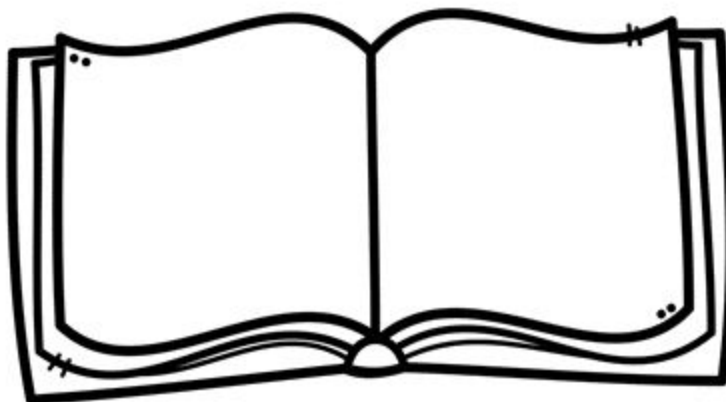
HOLY FAMILY  
7th and 8th Grade  
SUMMER READING  
2026



# Benefits of Summer Reading

**Not sure if summer reading is for you?  
Here's why you should give it a try...**

- Helps to make reading a lifelong habit (not just something we do for school assignments).
- Helps improve your reading skills.
- You can read at your own pace.
- Is a way you can exercise your brain over the summer.
- Can be a way to increase knowledge and exposure to different perspectives of the world.
- Helps build self discipline and responsibility.
- Any book can be fun to read and interesting to read with an open mind!



# Summer Reading 2026

## **Part 1: Choose Your Book**

Select **ONE** book to read over the summer.

**Your book should be:**

- At your reading level (only 1 grade level below your incoming grade)
- One that you have not read already
- At least **150–300 pages**
- Appropriate for school, young adult books must have parent approval

**You may choose:**

- A novel (fiction)
- A biography or memoir
- A nonfiction book on a topic that interests you

**\*All work must be handwritten and legible\***

## **Part 2: Reading Log: Everyone Completes This**

Complete **at least 5 entries** as you read. Include:

-date

-number pages read

-summary, 5 sentences

-your thoughts/questions/reactions to these pages read in complete sentences

## **Part 3: Final Project (Choose ONE)**

Write a **4 paragraph essay** that includes:

- A summary of the book (**no spoilers!**)
- Description of main character(s)
- Theme or message
- Your opinion (Did you like it? Why or why not?)

## Option B: Creative Project

Choose ONE:

- Create a colored **book cover** with illustrations and explanation (8 ½" x 11" paper folded like a book)
- Write a **journal/diary** from a character's point of view (**5 entries**)
- Make a **comic strip** of an important scene with at least 5 panels
- Create a **playlist** of at least 5 songs that match the book, with explanations

## Part 4: Reflection: Everyone Completes This

Write **1–2 paragraphs** answering:

- What did you learn from this book?
- Did it change how you think about anything?
- Would you recommend it to a friend? Why?

 **Due Date**

Submit your assignment during the **first day of school**.



## Final Project Example: Book Review

The novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen is an exciting survival story about a boy named Brian Robeson. After a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, Brian is left alone with only a hatchet that his mother gave him. At first, he struggles to find food, make shelter, and deal with his fear. Over time, Brian learns how to survive by observing nature and using his instincts. He faces many challenges, including wild animals, hunger, and loneliness. By the end of the story, Brian becomes stronger and more confident as he learns to take care of himself.

Brian Robeson is the main character in *Hatchet*, and he changes a lot throughout the story. At the beginning, Brian is scared, unprepared, and often feels hopeless. He keeps thinking about his parents' divorce and a secret he knows, which distracts him from surviving. However, as time passes, Brian becomes more focused and determined. He learns important skills like making fire, catching fish, and building shelter. Another important "character" in the story is nature itself. The wilderness challenges Brian, but it also teaches him valuable lessons. Brian's growth shows how people can change when faced with difficult situations.

One important theme in *Hatchet* is survival and perseverance. Brian does not give up, even when things seem impossible. For example, he fails many times when trying to start a fire, but he keeps trying until he succeeds. This shows that persistence is key to survival. Another theme is the importance of self-reliance. Brian learns that he must depend on himself instead of others. He becomes more independent and confident as the story continues. These themes show readers that hard work and determination can help people overcome challenges.

I think *Hatchet* is a very interesting and inspiring book. It kept my attention because there were many exciting and dangerous moments. I also liked how Brian changed from being scared to becoming strong and capable. His story shows that anyone can grow and improve if they try hard enough. However, some parts of the book were a little slow, especially when Brian was thinking a lot. Overall, I would recommend this book to other students because it teaches important life lessons and tells an exciting survival story.

### Paragraph 1 (Introduction & Summary)

### Paragraph 2 (Characters)

### Paragraph 3 (Theme)

### Paragraph 4 (Opinion)



## Reflection

Reading *Hatchet* taught me a lot about survival and staying strong during hard times. Brian had to learn how to take care of himself in the wilderness, even when he was scared and alone. This showed me that people can be stronger than they think if they don't give up. I also learned that nature can be both dangerous and helpful, depending on how you understand it and respect it.

This book changed how I think about challenges in my own life. Even though I'm not stuck in the woods, I still face problems, and Brian's story reminds me to stay calm and keep trying. I would recommend this book to a friend because it is exciting and full of adventure, but it also teaches important life lessons about courage and perseverance.

# Rubric

## 1. Reading Log

### **5 – Exceeds Expectations**

All required entries completed (or more). Responses are detailed, thoughtful, and show strong understanding of the text.

### **4 – Meets Expectations**

All required entries completed. Responses are clear and show basic understanding.

### **3 – Approaching Expectations**

Some entries missing OR responses are brief/vague with limited understanding.

### **2 – Below Expectations**

Few entries completed with minimal effort or understanding.

### **0 – Not Completed**

No reading log submitted.

## 2. Final Project (Essay, Creative)

### **5 – Exceeds Expectations**

Project is highly detailed, creative, and well-developed. Demonstrates deep understanding of the book with strong effort and originality.

### **4– Meets Expectations**

Project is complete, clear, and shows good understanding of the book. Meets all requirements.

### **3 – Approaching Expectations**

Project is partially complete OR lacks detail. Shows limited understanding.

### **2 – Below Expectations**

Project is incomplete, unclear, or shows minimal effort.

### **0 – Not Completed**

No project submitted.

## 3. Understanding of the Book

### **5 – Exceeds Expectations**

Demonstrates deep insight into characters, theme, and events. Makes thoughtful connections and analysis.

### **4 – Meets Expectations**

Shows clear understanding of main ideas, characters, and events.

### **3 – Approaching Expectations**

Shows partial understanding; may miss key details or ideas.

### **2 – Below Expectations**

Limited or incorrect understanding of the book.

### **0 – Not Demonstrated**

No evidence of understanding.

## 4. Writing & Organization

### **5 – Exceeds Expectations**

Writing is clear, organized, and engaging with strong sentence structure and minimal errors.

### **4 – Meets Expectations**

Writing is organized and understandable with few errors.

### **3 – Approaching Expectations**

Writing lacks organization OR has frequent errors that distract from meaning.

### **2 – Below Expectations**

Writing is difficult to understand with many errors.

### **0 – Not Completed**

No writing submitted.



**Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20**

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### **4 – Meets Expectations**

Shows clear understanding of main ideas, characters, and events.

### **3 – Approaching Expectations**

Shows partial understanding; may miss key details or ideas.

### **2 – Below Expectations**

Limited or incorrect understanding of the book.

### **0 – Not Demonstrated**

No evidence of understanding.

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 **Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 20