

Summer Reading Project 2026

Welcome to your summer reading project for 2026! We are very excited to hear about your amazing experiences with books this summer. Please see below for details.

First: Choose a book you'd like to read. This should be a book you have not read already. Also, be sure your book is age-level and grade-level appropriate, especially if it is a graphic novel. If you need help with this, please talk with your teacher before you leave for the summer!

Next: Find a great spot and read! Consider taking notes as you read—this will make your life easier when it's time to create your poster.

Then: Create your project! You can create a poster OR a 1-2 minute video about your summer reading book. Take your time and do your best work! Please see the attached rubric for what your project should include.

Details for project

For the poster, use 11x17 paper, or larger but not smaller (If you need paper, please stop by Ashford School.)

OR

1-2 minute video

Finally: Bring your poster to school, or upload your video to Google Classroom when you return to school!

Projects will be **due Monday, September 14, 2026** and will be scored using the rubric on the reverse of this page. Your teacher will encourage you to share your project with the class, so be prepared to tell your classmates all about your book. Families, if a student chooses to make a video, it may be shared on the morning announcements. Please let your child's teacher know if you do not want their video shared on the morning announcements.

Everyone who completes a project will earn a free ice cream from the cafeteria and will have their name entered into a drawing for a reading gift basket! You can earn a second ticket for the drawing if your book is one of the Nutmeg Nominees (see attached list).



FAQs:

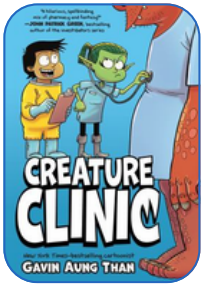
1. Is this required?
 - a. Yes! You are required to complete a project based on your summer reading. You will be given a grade for completing the work.
2. How is this project graded?
 - a. Teachers will be using the rubric on the reverse of this page to grade the project. It will be worth 5% of your 1st trimester ELA/Rdg grade. Please do your best!
3. What if I choose a book that isn't age-level and grade-level appropriate?
 - a. Unfortunately, you will not receive credit for a book that is not appropriate for you.
4. When is it due?
 - a. Your project will be due on Monday, September 14, 2026.

<p>Summer Reading Poster/Video Project Rubric for Students Entering Grade 5</p> <p>(worth 5% of the 1st Marking Period ELA/Reading grade)</p>	
Age level & reading level appropriate?	___/10
High-quality visuals (drawings or digital images) that support understanding	___/10
Neat, readable writing or typing	___/10
Title of book	___/10
Author of book	___/10
Plot summary (Don't give away the ending)	___/10
A picture that relates to the protagonist(s) (main character)	___/10
A picture that relates to the plot (storyline) + an explanation of the picture and how it relates to the plot	___/10
Your favorite quote OR your favorite passage + a brief description of why it is your favorite passage	___/10
Appropriate grammar; if poster: spelling and mechanics	___/10
Total points (out of 100)	___/100

<p>Summer Reading Poster/Video Project Rubric for Students Entering Grades 6-8</p> <p>(worth 5% of the 1st Marking Period ELA/Reading grade)</p>	<p>Excellent 11-15 points</p> <p>Everything Included, neat, legible, colorful/visible, complete</p> <p>Demonstrates excellent effort</p>	<p>Satisfactory 6-10 points</p> <p>Most items included, neat, legible, colorful/visible, mostly complete.</p> <p>Demonstrates good effort.</p>	<p>Needs improvement 0-5 points</p> <p>Few items Included, may or may not be neat, legible, colorful/visible, somewhat incomplete.</p> <p>Demonstrates little-to-no effort.</p>
Age level & reading level appropriate?			
high quality visuals (drawings or digital images) that support understanding			
Title of book			
Author of book			
Plot summary (Don't give away the ending.)			
A picture that relates to the protagonist(s) (main character)			
A picture that relates to the plot (storyline) + an explanation of the picture and how it relates to the plot			
Your favorite quote OR your favorite passage + a brief description of why it is your favorite passage			
Appropriate grammar, spelling and mechanics			
Total points (up to 135)			



2027 Nutmeg Book Award Intermediate Nominees Grades 4-6

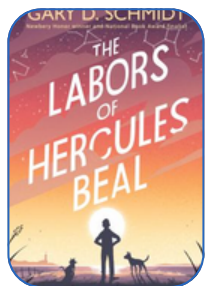


CREATURE CLINIC
by Gavin Aung Than

Doctor-in-training Kara Orc sees many unusual patients at the Creature Clinic, the world's only hospital for mythical creatures. When Mitch, a human, unexpectedly needs to stay despite a "no humans allowed" policy, Dr. Kara has to do what's right. Even if it means going head-to-head with the chief of medicine- her mom.

THE PARTITION PROJECT
by Saadia Faruqi

Maha discovers that history is personal when she searches for a documentary topic for her media studies class. While listening to stories of her Dadi's youth, Maha discovers that Pakistan's split from India, an event that tore her family and millions of others' lives apart, is a story worth sharing.



THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL
by Gary D. Schmidt

Hercules Beal is named after a mythical hero, yet feels nothing like him. When his teacher gives him one assignment, to complete the Twelve Labors of Hercules in real life, Herc thinks it's impossible. With no magical monsters around, can he find the strength to face his own challenges and live up to his namesake?

THE QUEEN OF OCEAN PARKWAY
by Sarvenaz Tash, art by Ericka Lugo

Roya faces a boring summer stuck in the apartment building where her mom is the superintendent. But when a tenant goes missing, she teams up with new kid Amin to solve the mystery. In the process she learns about New York City history and goes farther than she ever dreamed possible.

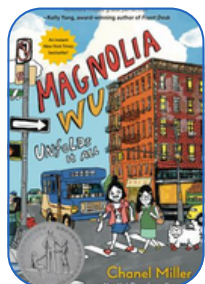
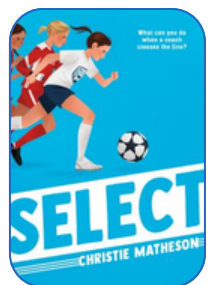


LITTLE MONARCHS
by Jonathan Case

In a dystopian future, where the sun has killed almost every mammal, Elvie and her caregiver, Flora, have finally found a cure for the deadly sun sickness. But making enough antidote is not even the hardest part: can they endure sickness, natural disasters, and other sinister survivors?

SELECT
by Christie Matheson

Alex is really good at soccer and an elite soccer club called Select wants her on the team. The new team is hard work, but that's good, right? Alex encounters bullies and elitism on the new team, but not where you think. Can Alex find a way to stay true to herself and still love soccer?

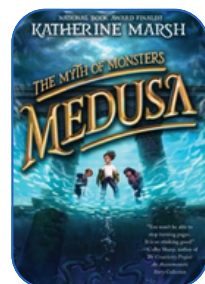
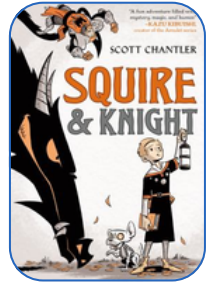


MAGNOLIA WU UNFOLDS IT ALL
by Chanel Miller

Magnolia Wu is looking for adventure beyond her parents' NYC laundromat. When she makes a like-minded new friend, the girls set out to reunite Magnolia's collection of lost socks with their owners. Through each investigation the sock detectives get to know more about their city and how to be good friends.

SQUIRE & KNIGHT
by Scott Chantler

When Sir Kelton rushes off to slay the dragon terrorizing Bridgetown, his young squire stays behind to investigate the town's mysterious curse. Using wit and research, the squire uncovers secrets that might save the town, reveal the true danger, and show that brains can be mightier than brawn.

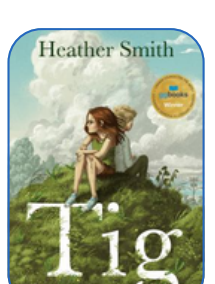


THE MYTH OF MONSTERS: MEDUSA
by Katherine Marsh

Ava and Jax's mother attended Accademia del Forte, and now it's their turn. They discover that the school's goal is to teach descendants of mythical monsters to control their powers- or else. Soon, Ava and her friends are on a quest of mythic proportions to uncover the truth about the past and their futures

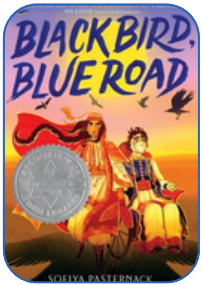
TIG
by Heather Smith

After moving in with her uncle and his husband, Tig isn't sure she belongs in their perfect town. Between cheese races, bold ideas, and caring for a dog with a rough past, Tig learns that family isn't about perfection; it's about love, trust, and finding your place to belong.





2027 Nutmeg Book Award Middle School Nominees Grades 7-8

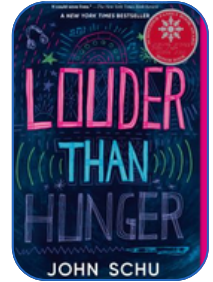


BLACK BIRD, BLUE ROAD
by Sofiya Pasternack

Pesah has long suffered from leprosy, with his twin sister, Ziva, devoted to his care. When he has a vision that the Angel of Death is coming for him, the twins flee to find a cure. A demon promises them safety in Luz, where no one dies—if they can outrun Death itself.

LOUDER THAN HUNGER
by John Schu

A 13-year-old struggles with a serious eating disorder while hiding it from friends and family until he is hospitalized. Told in a first-person diary form, we experience the inner battles that Jake faces and attempts to combat.

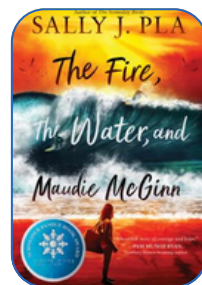


BOY 2.0
by Tracey Baptiste

With the help of his old friends and new foster family, Win “Coal” Keegan navigates the twists and turns of life as a boy who can turn invisible in this action-packed, superhero origin story.

PARACHUTE KIDS
by Betty C. Tang

After an exciting vacation to Disneyland, Feng-Li’s parents reveal they’re returning to Taiwan, leaving her and her siblings behind in America. As the kids grapple with living on their own, learning English, and attending school, Feng-Li must find a way to keep her family together, even when they’re miles apart.

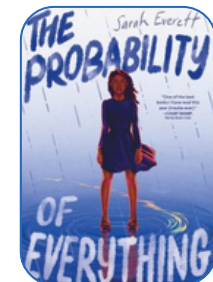


THE FIRE, THE WATER AND MAUDIE MCGINN
by Sally J. Pla

Maudie McGinn has a secret. When a wildfire upends her summer with her father and distances her from the tensions of her mother’s grasp, Maudie finds freedom and confidence for the first time. Life feels like a dream, but will Maudie’s secret shatter her safety and her sense of self?

THE PROBABILITY OF EVERYTHING
by Sarah Everett

Kemi Carter sees the world through ratios and numbers - logical explanations and mathematical rules. When an asteroid threatens Earth, Kemi’s calculations can’t soften the inevitable, no matter how hard she tries. As she builds a time capsule to preserve her family’s story, Kemi learns what truly matters can’t be determined by numbers.

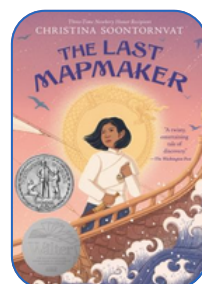


HALF MOON SUMMER
by Elaine Vickers

Told in alternating chapters of Drew’s prose and Mia’s verse, two middle school students form a friendship over the summer as they train for a half-marathon. Each has reasons for pursuing the race as they deal with their own family struggles, but they will soon discover how much they need the support of one another.

QUEEN OF THE TILES
by Hanna Alkaf

Malaysian teen Najwa returns to the annual Scrabble championship a year after her best friend, Trina, suddenly died. Still wrestling with anxiety and grief, Najwa hopes to honor Trina by winning the tournament. When posts from Trina’s social media account suggest foul play, Najwa launches her investigation into the mystery of Trina’s death.



THE LAST MAPMAKER
by Christina Soontornvat

Apprenticed to a famed mapmaker, Sai joins an expedition to chart new lands and escape her past. The farther they sail, the more dangerous the journey becomes, with storms, sea monsters, and secrets lurking beneath the waves. But as the truth about their voyage is revealed, Sai must decide who she really is.

THE TENTH MISTAKE OF HANK HOOPERMAN
by Gennifer Choldenko

This is the heartwarming and heartbreaking story of 11-year-old Hank Hooperman, left home alone with his three-year-old sister, Boo when their often-absent mother disappears. Using wit and bravery, Hank must find a safe place to temporarily land.



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