

# Required Summer Reading and Assignments

## For 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**\*\*All students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and, 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to read 2 books\*\***

Over the course of the summer, students will be required to read 2 books and complete a creative performance assessment related to the book during the first 2 weeks of school. This assignment will be completely done in class and will be in lieu of a summer reading test.

Students will be required to share the 2 books they read with their class in the form of a "Book Talk". These "Book Talks" will be done throughout the first few weeks of the school year. To prepare for your "Book Talk", please see the rubric attached. Essentially, a "Book Talk" is an informal talk about a book you have read. It should last about 3 minutes. The specifics of what to be included in the "Book Talk" are included in the rubric.

To help in your book selection process, you can consult Amazon.com for a general description of each book, or Common Sense Media, a useful website that rates and reviews books according to developmentally appropriate content, language, and writing quality on behalf of families and schools.

I have also included a sheet with tips to help you choose the perfect summer reading book that is within your independent reading level.

If you have any questions during the summer about the summer reading, please feel free to contact me at [annmarie.galdau@stpaulroyals.org](mailto:annmarie.galdau@stpaulroyals.org)

Thanks!

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!! 😊



Mrs. AnnMarie Galdau

Middle School ELA Teacher

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss

# Summer Reading List

For students entering 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

A Monster Calls by Siobhan Dowd

Girl, Stolen by April Henry

Believe- The Victorious Story of Eric Legend

I am #4 by Pittacus Love

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Paper Towns by John Green

Two Minute Drill by Mike Lupica

Legend by Marie Lu

So B It by Sarah Weeks

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by Pauline by C.S. Lewis

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science by John Fleischman

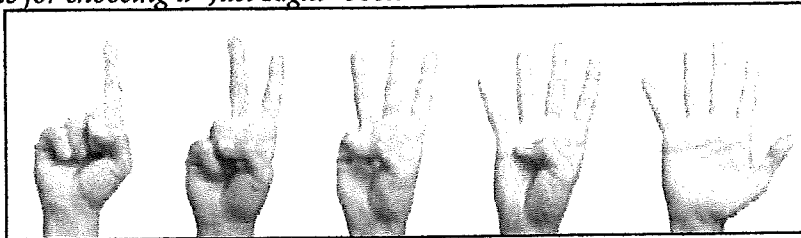
The Only Game by Mike Lupica



## Tips to Help You Choose the Perfect Summer Reading Books

When choosing books to read this summer, it is important to choose a book that is at your independent reading level. The independent level is the level at which you can read easily and with pleasure. Summer reading is meant to encourage a love of reading. Many studies show that summer reading can actually boost your achievement when you read a "Just Right" book. Here is one helpful strategy for choosing the perfect summer reading:

### *The 5-Finger Rule for choosing a "Just Right" book*



The 5-Finger Rule for choosing a "Just Right" book helps to evaluate your ability to read the words. To use this strategy, open a book to the middle and begin reading. For each word you don't know, put up one finger. If at the end of the page you have:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 5 or more fingers up | -too hard and challenging, save for later book |
| 4 fingers up         | -very challenging                              |
| 2-3 fingers up       | -just right                                    |
| 0-1 fingers up       | -too easy, vacation book                       |

Your goal is to choose a book that is a 2-3 finger book, a "just right" book.

We can't wait to hear about your summer reading when you return to school in the fall!

**Book Talk Rubric:**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Advanced 20 - 16</b>	<b>Proficient 15 - 10</b>	<b>Developing 10 - 7</b>	<b>Emerging 0 - 6</b>
<b>Introduction attracts audience</b>	Exceptionally creative beginning with an excellent quote	Creative beginning with a good quote	Not a very creative or interesting beginning with a quote	Unengaging beginning with no quote
<b>Discusses the plot, setting, and characters</b>	Thorough and interesting summary of these elements.	Somewhat thorough and interesting summary of these elements	Average summary of the elements	Does not summarize these elements or is missing a component.
<b>Conclusion makes us want to read the book (or not read the book)</b>	Very enticing conclusion – draws the listener to read the book	Somewhat interesting conclusion- listener might want to read the book	Concluded but did not draw the listener to read the book	Quick and simple conclusion or no conclusion at all.
<b>Demonstrates enthusiasm for the book</b>	Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable	Somewhat enthusiastic and knowledgeable	Little enthusiasm and understanding	Not enthusiastic at all
<b>Audible</b>	Voice is clear, words are pronounced correctly and tempo is good.	Voice is mostly clear and audible, Pronunciation is mostly correct.	Sometimes hard to understand or hear the student. Mispronounces common words.	Student mumbles or speaks too soft, fast, or slow
<b>Visual aid</b>	Visual aid is well done, colorful, and very helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is colorful and helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is completed and might be helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is not done or very poorly done
<b>Stays within time limit</b>	Within time limit 3 minutes	Presentation is 30 or fewer seconds outside the time limit.	Presentation is 31-60 seconds outside of time limit.	Presentation is under 2 minutes or over 3 minutes.