

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY – MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST 2025

June 2025

Dear Students,

Please choose a book to read from the suggested reading list for the grade you will be entering in September.

Your goal is to read a book that interests you and one that you've not read before. Be ready to share your experience with your class when you come back to school in September. If you're not sure what these books are about, do some research to find out (Amazon has great brief summaries of books). Complete the attached journal packet during and after reading your book. Remember that copying from other students or the internet (including AI-generated) is plagiarism, and this will not be accepted! You will take an Accelerated Reader test and complete an assignment on your book when we return to school in the fall. Accelerated Reader is an online tool that we use to keep track of our reading progress and goals throughout the year.

Do your best and enjoy your reading time over the summer! There is also a spot for you to add a bonus book review if you choose to read more than one book. Remember to bring your book(s) with you wherever your summer takes you—whether you're traveling or hanging out in your backyard! Also, remember that summer reading is not meant to be jammed in at the last minute or looked at as a chore. Read your book a little bit each day and you will be amazed at the progress you make! You will not feel stressed about finishing it before the school year begins if you spread your reading time throughout the summer. Summer reading helps to improve your reading skills, comprehension, memory, vocabulary, self-esteem, and so much more!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Grew

ELA 6-8 Teacher at NDA



See the NEXT PAGE for BOOK CHOICES >>>

Book Choices for Students Entering Grade 6:

- *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Close to Famous* by Joan Bauer
- *Running Out of Time* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller
- *Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson
- *My Life with Chimpanzees* by Jane Goodall
- *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
- *See You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng
- *The Hero Two Doors Down* by Sharon Robinson
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Ungifted* by Gordan Korman (or any book by this author)
- *Savvy* by Ingrid Law
- *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea (Book 1)

Book Choices for Students Entering Grade 7:

- *Sophia's War* by Avi (or any book by this author)
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Book 2, 3, 4, or 5* (depending on where you are in the series—we already read Book 1, so this is purposely NOT on the list)
- *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Lyddie* by Katherine Patterson
- *I Am Malala* (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Readers Edition) by William Kamkwamba
- *The Notorious Benedict Arnold* by Steve Sheinkin
- *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick
- *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper
- *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks
- *Emmy in the Key of Code* by Aimee Lucido
- *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick
- *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia
- *Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty
- *The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer Holm

Book Choices for Students Entering Grade 8:

- *A Night Divided* by Jennifer Nielson
- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Time of the Witches* by Anna Myers
- *Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Hidden Figures* (Young Readers Edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War II* by Joseph Bruchac
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Behind Enemy Lines: A Young Pilot's Story* by H.R. DeMallie
- *Do the Math: Secrets, Lies, and Algebra* by Wendy Lichtman
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *All the Broken Pieces* by Ann E. Burg
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- *Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen
- *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton
- *Every Soul a Star* by Wendy Mass (or any book by this author)
- *The Science of Unbreakable Things* by Tae Keller
- *Focused* by Alyson Gerber

Your Name: _____ Grade in September 2025: _____

Title and author of the book you’re reading: _____

Date started _____ Date completed _____

Directions: Write a solid paragraph of 5-7 sentences for each journal entry. Attach additional paper if necessary. Your entries should be written in your neatest handwriting (cursive or printing).

Journal Entry 1: Describe the main character of the book you are reading. Provide their two main character traits, and use details from the story to support how they show these traits. (Think about their words, actions, thoughts, etc)

Journal Entry 2: Describe the setting of the book you are reading (where and when the story takes place). How does it affect the story, such as the way the characters live and the events in the book? Would you want to live there? Why or why not?

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Journal Entry 5: What is the main message or lesson of the story? Think about what the main character learns or how they change. Do you think the message is important? Why or why not?

Journal Entry 6: Write a detailed and well-developed book review describing and explaining what you liked or didn't like about the book. Provide specific details from the story in your review. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

Journal Entry 7: Look through the book for five words that stand out to you. These can be words you learned from reading the book, or words that you thought were important. Write down each word, the sentence from the book that contains the word, and then a dictionary definition of the word.

THE FOLLOWING JOURNAL ENTRY IS FOR BONUS CREDIT:

Journal Entry 8: If you read another book, you can write a book review here following the same directions as journal entry 6. Since this entry is for bonus credit, it is optional. If you are choosing not to complete this journal entry, simply leave it blank.

PLEASE BRING YOUR COMPLETED PACKET TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER!