

8th Grade Summer Reading Project



This year 8th grade at Suncoast Academy will use some of the titles from SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS AWARD BOOKS 2023-2024 6-8 list for our Summer Reading Project. Because we believe it is important that our students don't fall back on the reading gains they have made over the school year, we encourage parents to support their students by providing reading opportunities throughout the summer break. Although each student will only be assessed on their project for one book, we highly recommend each student choose more books to read before the beginning of the school year.

Below are the titles of books (and a short summary) your student can pick from:



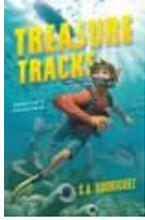
Winnie Zeng Unleashes a Legend by Katie Zhao

Winnie Zeng has two goals: survive her first year of middle school and outdo her stuck-up archnemesis, David Zuo. It won't be easy, since, according to her older sister, middle school is the pits. Luckily Winnie studied middle school survival tactics in comic books and anime. Nothing will stop her from being the very best student. But none of Winnie's research has prepared her to face the mother of all hurdles: evil spirits. When she makes mooncakes for a class bake sale, she awakens the stuff of legends from her grandmother's old cookbook, spilling otherworldly chaos into her sleepy town. Read this book to find out what Winnie has to do to keep her town and the world from falling into chaos.



Rivals by Tommy Greenwald (from 2022-2023 list)

The people of Walthorne love their basketball—and one of the things they love most is the special rivalry between the Walthorne North Middle School Cougars and the Walthorne South Middle School Panthers. As the season begins, two star players are feeling the heat: Austin Chambers, captain of Walthorne North, worries that he's not good enough to live up to his father's legacy, while across town, the brilliantly talented Carter Haswell, captain of Walthorne South, is already under pressure to get a scholarship that might ease his family's financial stress.



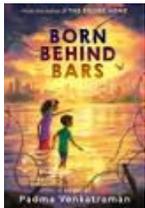
Treasure Tracks by S. A. Rodriguez

Fernando “Fin” joins his grandfather on a secret quest to find a long-lost treasure swept to sea. But when their first mission takes a near-deadly turn, leaving his abuelo weak and unable to speak, Fin’s left to navigate the hunt alone. With danger lurking at every turn, Fin dives into the mission in order to save abuelo’s life. If he can’t succeed, will he lose abuelo for good? Find out how this story ends in Treasure Tracks



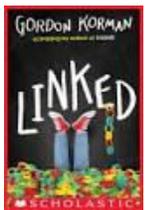
Escape by K. R. Alexander

Westworld meets Charlie and the Chocolate Factory meets Jurassic Park as kids win a chance to enter the place of their dreams and finds that it quickly turns into a nightmare. It’s all anyone talks about and it’s all Cody dreams about. It’s the biggest adventure park in the world, and it’s more than mere rides and roller coasters. At ESCAPE, you can do anything you want, be anyone you want, and there are no adults to tell you no. Simulations turn deadly. His fantasy world glitches, and the games become races for survival.



Born Behind Bars by Padma Venkatraman

Kabir has been in jail since the day he was born!. His mom is serving time for a crime she didn’t commit. He’s never met his dad so the only family he has are their cellmates. The only place he feels the least bit free is in the classroom where his kind teacher regales him with stories of the wonders of the outside world. He escapes from an uncle that plans to sell him and runs away as fast as his legs will carry him. This is not the world Kabir dreamed of but he’s discovered that he’s not the type to give up. Kabir is ready to show the world that he and his mother deserve a place in it.



Linked by Gordon Korman

Linked is set in Chokecherry, Colorado, a small town where everyone knows everyone and all the students have been together since Kindergarten. There are a few new kids, one of whom is Jewish, whose parents work as paleontologists digging for dinosaur fossils in town. The small town is thrown into an uproar when a swastika is painted in the school building. Dana, Michael and Caroline are dealing with the impact of the swastikas and working to create six million paper links to represent the Jews killed in the Holocaust. Read to find out who was responsible and why

Project Assessment

Students **pick one book** from the choices above. After reading the book, students then **pick one of the project choices** below as a way to share their reading experience. Choose a project based upon the student's strengths, interests, and learning preferences. Please include the project number, and name with the final work. If the project requires the student to send a recording, be sure to format it in WMV (Windows Media). Any typewritten work should be done in single-space, Times New Roman font 12.

Make sure to have the project ready for the teacher on the first day of the school year. The teacher will ask all students to turn in their written pieces in or share their recorded files DURING THE FIRST WEEK of school. This project will be the first graded work for the school year, so it is very important it is done well and turned in on-time. The choices below are meant to make this experience a positive one rather than a chore, so help your student pick the one that appeals to him/her the most.

1. Write a letter to a character in the book. (500 words minimum)
2. Write a letter to the author inviting him/her to speak to the class about the book, and explain why you feel the author could contribute to the learning experience of your fellow students. (500 words minimum)
3. Write an obituary, eulogy, or epitaph for one of the characters in your book. (500 words minimum)
4. Pretend you are the author, and explain why you choose the title of your book. (500 words minimum)
5. Create a poster for your book. Be sure to include a written explanation for your design. (1 22"-28" poster board)
6. Describe how a character changed during the book. (500 words minimum)
7. List the protagonist, antagonist, setting, plot, theme, and point of view of the story. Offer explanations for your choices when needed. (500 words minimum)
8. Change one element of the story and explain how the change would affect the story. (500 words minimum)
9. Make a chart showing how two characters are alike and how they are different. (size of a 22"-28" poster board)
10. Write a letter to our principal explaining why every Suncoast Academy student should read your book. (500 words minimum)
11. Describe what you think happened to the main character after the book ended. (500 words minimum)
12. Create a timeline that depicts the major events of the story. (size of a 22"-28" poster board)

13. Make a shoebox diorama of a scene from the book you read. Write a paragraph (100 words) explaining the scene and attach it to the diorama.
14. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation (100 words minimum) of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
15. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found (remember to cite where you found them) or drawn. Include at least 5 explanations on how this brochure relates to the setting and/or the plot of the book.