

SUMMER READING  
CHARLESTON DAY SCHOOL  
RISING EIGHTH GRADE

The reading should be done throughout the summer and not the last week of August. The main purpose of summer reading is to keep the verbal skills sharp. An added benefit is that summer provides the time to find joy in reading.

**REQUIRED READING : *Wolf Hollow* Lauren Wolk**

**CHOICE: Read two additional books that follow the criteria outlined on the pages that follow. Do not choose graphic novels or books that you have already read.**

Students should write two book reports about the books they select on their own. The appropriate length is 2 pages double-spaced. Please also include the following information in the upper right-hand corner of each report.

1. Your name
2. Title, author, and number of pages
3. Date completed
4. Parent signature

The reports should be expressed in paragraph form, typed, and fastened in a folder. The reports are due the **first day** of school. Your grade will be penalized by a deduction of 10% every day that the entire assignment is late.

In addition, students will also be tested on the required summer reading book during the first week of school. Again, a report is not required for this selection.

**Required:**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk

\*No Graphic Novels

\*Cannot choose something already read

**In Addition, choose only One (1) book that fits one of the following themes or topics: Survival/Civil Rights/American Voices. If you have trouble picking your own book that fits one of those themes, then choose one from the following list.**

Books that relate to the **Survival** theme explore the question of what type of strength is most valuable in a survival situation or what does it take to survive.

**Civil Rights** works are writings that relate to the civil rights movement with characters who inspire social change on a small or grand scale.

**American Voices** relates to any book that reveals an aspect of our American culture or relates to American identity and the several different cultures that form that identity.

### **Recommended Reads for the themes Survival/Civil Rights/American Voices:**

*Red Umbrella* by Chistina Diaz Gonzalez  
*Alas, Babylon* by Pat Frank  
*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins  
*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain  
*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque  
*The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara  
*Hiroshima* by John Hersey  
*Into thin Air* by Jon Krakauer  
*Season of Life* by Jeffrey Marx  
*The Glass Castle* Jeannette Walls  
*Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat  
*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park  
*The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane  
*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway  
*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett  
*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* by Fannie Flagg  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith  
*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand  
*A Lesson Before Dying* by Earnest Gaines  
*Dear Martin* by Nic Stone  
*I Heard an Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven  
*Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya  
*The Good Earth* by Peal S. Buck  
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker  
*Go Tell It On the Mountain* by James Baldwin

**In addition, read a book that fits one of the following themes or topics: Journeys of Transformation/World's End. If you have trouble picking your own book that fits one of those themes, then choose one from the following list.**

**Recommended Reads for the themes Journeys of Transformation/World's End:**

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

*The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

*The Old Man and the Boy* by Robert Ruark

*1984* by George Orwell

*The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White

*Elfstones of Shannara* by Terry Brooks

*The Crystal Cave* by Mary Stewart

*The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien

*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

*The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker

*The Martian* by Andy Weir

*The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

*Watership Down* by Richard Adams

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

*Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes

*The Road* Cormac McCarthy

*The Hundred Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morais

*The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen

*A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

*Wilder Girls* by Rory Power

*Everyday* by David Levithan

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

## Writing a Book Review

### HOW CAN I BEGIN MY REVIEW?

**If you begin your report with a detailed summary, you may lose readers. Here are some tips for grabbing readers' attention with your first sentence:**

Make a general statement about one of the subjects in the book

Many people have been members of basketball teams, but few have been so dedicated to a team as Alan Williams.

State what the book is about, and give readers a reason for becoming involved in it.

In *Happily May I Walk*, Arlene Hirschfelder investigates the lives of Native Americans and takes readers on a journey through a world that few Americans see.

Make a personal statement about your reaction to the book.

I've never wept while reading a book—but *Picture Bride* by Yoshiko Uchida moved me to tears.

Compare and contrast the book with other books.

Of all the poetry books by African-American women that I've read, *Blacks* by Gwendolyn Brooks made the deepest impression on me.

Introduce the reader to a main character.

If you keep a journal, you'll identify with Julia, whose "Book of Strangenesses" helps her to figure out the world around her in *A Room Made of Windows* by Eleanor Cameron.

### HOW CAN I DEVELOP MY REPORT?

After introducing the book and capturing your readers' interest, you'll want to answer the questions they might naturally ask:

**Who are the main characters?**

**What subject is it about?**

**What happens to the main characters?**

**What is the setting?**

**What is the book's theme, or central message?**

**When organizing your report, follow these steps:****A. Introduction**

1. Attract your readers' attention.
2. Introduce your book.
  - a. Identify the title and the author.
  - b. Provide a 1-2 sentence summary.
3. Include a thesis statement that tells the reader what the theme (overall meaning) of the book is and why.

**B. Body**

1. **Briefly** discuss the book in 1-2 paragraphs of 5-8 sentences each.
  - a. Describe the setting, identify the main characters, and explain what happens. Only give the important details of the story.
  - b. Discuss the protagonist, and the central conflict.
2. Evaluate (criticize or praise) the book in 1-2 paragraphs of 5-8 sentences.
  - a. Explain to your audience if you thought the book was entertaining or boring, has good characters or unrealistic characters, has thorough information or inadequate information.
  - b. Use quotes or paraphrases from the book to prove your points and provide examples.
3. Discuss 1-2 main reasons why you think the theme is the overall meaning of the book.
  - a. This should also be 1-2 paragraphs of 5-8 sentences.
  - b. Use quotes or paraphrases from the book to prove your points and provide examples

**C. Conclusion**

1. Reword your thesis statement.
2. Review the main points of your argument.
3. Recommend or reject the book and give reasons why.

**Checkpoints for revising:**

1. Is the introduction attention-grabbing?
2. Are the title and author identified early in the book review?
3. Is my presentation of the plot or main idea **brief**?
4. Do I support my opinions with examples (quotes and paraphrases)?
5. Do I conclude with a recommendation and a summary of my reasons for making it?