



Charleston Day School

Summer Reading 2026 Rising 6th Grade

REQUIRED READING (all students read)
The Labors of Hercules Beal by Gary D. Schmidt

CHOICE

- Read two additional self-selected books that fit the given category/themes below.
- Choose books that you have not already read.
- You are not limited to the books on the recommendation list. Use the list if you need ideas; choose your own book if you have a personal pick that matches the themes! **No graphic novels or picture books, please. **

Category 1: An Unlikely Friendship(s)

Category 2: A Hero's Journey

Students complete **two book reports**-- one for each CHOICE book (not for the required reading selection).

Some guidelines for the book reports:

- **One** page double-spaced (2-3 paragraphs, 5-7 sentences per paragraph)
- First paragraph should summarize the setting and describe the main character(s).
- Second/third paragraph should discuss a few critical events in the story that changed the main character, revealed a theme, represented a conflict... discuss something you learned while reading. Stretch yourself beyond re-telling the plot.

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's signature

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

In addition, students will be tested on the required class novel during the first week of school. Again, do **NOT** complete a book report for the required selection.

An Unlikely Friendship(s) Book Suggestions

How will I know if a book includes an unlikely friendship? Look for book choices where the main character faces a challenge and he/she develops a friendship with a person (or animal) that is not in the character's immediate circle. It is with a new person that does not seem like a match at first glance.

- The Candymakers**
 - Counting by 7s
 - The Egypt Game**
 - Hello, Universe
 - Holes**
 - The Incredible Journey
 - Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus**
 - The Magic Half**
 - The Million Dollar Putt
 - The One and Only Ivan**
 - The Pinballs
 - The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise
 - The Running Dream
 - Short
 - Things Not Seen**
 - Towers Falling
 - The Unteachables
 - The View from Saturday
 - The Wednesday Wars**
 - When You Reach Me
- Wendy Mass
Holy Goldberg Sloan
Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Erin Entrada Kelly
Louis Sachar
Sheila Burnford
Dusti Bowling
Annie Barrows
Dan Gutman
Katherine Applegate
Betsy Byars
Dan Gemeinhart
Wendelin Van Draanen
Holly Goldberg Sloan
Andrew Clements
Jewell Parker Rhodes
Gordan Korman
E.L. Konigsburg
Gary D. Schmidt
Rebecca Stead (especially if you like *Wrinkle in Time*)

**sequels or companion books available

A Hero's Journey Book Suggestions

How will I know if a book includes a hero's journey? Look for book choices where the main character goes on an adventure and is victorious in a big challenge or crisis. The character should return home (or settle in a new home) changed or transformed by the end.

- Amelia Lost (non-fiction)
 - The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (non-fiction)
 - The False Prince**
 - Freewater
 - I am Rosemarie
 - Julie of the Wolves**
 - The Last Cuentista
 - Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
 - The Night Diary
- Candace Fleming
William Kamkwamba
Jennifer Nielson
Amina Luqman-Dawson
Marietta Moskin
Elizabeth George Speare
Donna Barba Higuera
Robert C. O'Brien
Veera Hiranandani

- The Neptune Project** Polly Hollyoke
- Peak** Roland Smith
- Poppy** Avi
- Ranger's Apprentice series John Flanagan
- Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World (non-fiction) Jennifer Armstrong
- Song for a Whale Lynne Kelly
- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle Avi
- The War That Saved My Life** Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- The Watsons Go to Birmingham Christopher Paul Curtis
- The White Mountains** John Christopher
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond Elizabeth George Speare
- A Wrinkle in Time** Madeleine L'Engle

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