



Flemington-Raritan School District Growing Summer Readers for Grades 7 - 8

"Just like hockey players lose some of their skills if they stay off their skates and off the ice for three months, children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development."

-Dr. Richard Allington, University of Tennessee

Summer Reading Student Goals:

1. I can develop a reading life by choosing books that cultivate my interests and curiosities.
2. I can prepare to share my interests and insights from favorite texts.
3. I can prepare for discussions by organizing my thoughts, expanding my understandings and reflecting on my reading.
4. I can participate in discussion more effectively by using examples and evidence from the text to develop questions and extend ideas during the discussion.
5. I can ask questions to connect group members' ideas and answer questions with relevant information.

This summer, students entering 7th and 8th grades should:

1. **Dedicate Time to Reading**

Students should read material that they enjoy, can read with fluency and comprehension, and that challenges their thinking. In addition, according to the U.S. Department of Education, students should read for a minimum of thirty minutes daily. Avid readers should obviously not limit themselves to thirty minutes per day.

2. **Self-Select Reading Material**

Students will not be assigned specific reading materials; instead, they will find and choose various books, magazines, blogs, and articles, etc. on their own.

Note: Parents or guardians should be involved in the process of choosing texts if they have any concerns about appropriateness and suitability of their child's choice of reading material.

3. **Be Ready for September!**

While students will likely read several texts over the summer, they will be required to speak knowledgeably to their classmates about one text that was meaningful to them. While reading, students may choose to use post-it notes, journaling, jotting, illustrating, or rehearsing; whatever works best for them as readers.

Upon returning to school in September, students will share their thinking. When sharing, students should be prepared to:

- Name the title and author of the text.
- Identify the text as fiction, nonfiction, or a hybrid.
- Briefly describe the text by summarizing or highlighting an impactful or intriguing section.
- Explain why this text was meaningful or important.
- Ask and answer classmates' questions about the text.

Resources:

- [Washington Post: Getting kids to read: The 5 key habits of lifelong readers](#)
- Department of Education: [Why Summer Reading Pays Off Year-Round](#)
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville: [Summer reading is key to maintaining or improving students' reading skills](#)

Please visit the Flemington-Raritan School District "Summer Reading" webpage for more information.



Student Summer Reading Checklist Grades 7 - 8

Please use this checklist to help you prepare to discuss your text(s) upon your return.

Before returning to school, I will:	Upon returning to school, during the discussion, I will:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Read the text closely, mark the text, and take notes. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare by crafting questions that are related to the text and can spark discussions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Contribute several relevant comments. <input type="checkbox"/> Cite specific evidence from the text to support an idea. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask at least one thoughtful, probing question. <input type="checkbox"/> Question or ask another participant to clarify his/her comment. <input type="checkbox"/> Build on another participant's idea by restating, paraphrasing, or synthesizing. <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage other participants to enter the conversation. <input type="checkbox"/> Treat all other participants with dignity and respect.

*When it comes to summer reading, it does not matter WHAT books students read, it matters THAT they read!
~ Patty McGee*

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