

NAMS Summer Reading List 2024 *(Optional)*

If completed, the assignment will be recorded as a Major Grade for ELA.

Entering 6th Grade: Choose from one of the following:

1. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan.

Summary: Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson is on the most dangerous quest of his life. He must catch a thief who has stolen Zeus's lightning bolt, and along the way, battle a host of mythological enemies trying to stop him. (Fantasy)

2. *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

Summary: Through the eyes of ten-year old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war. (Historical Fiction)

3. *The Brooklyn Nine* by Alan Gratz (840L)

Summary: Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Each member of this family, from family founder Felix Schneider in the 1800s to Snider Flint in the present day, has a strong tie to the game and to Brooklyn. Through the years this family has dodged bullets on a battlefield, pitched perfect games, and dealt with the devastating loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Nine innings - nine generations. One game — one family. Through it all, one thing remains true: the bonds of family are as strong as a love of the game. (Historical Fiction)

4. *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S. Lewis (790L)

Summary: Digory and Polly discover a secret passage that links their homes, and they are taken into the World of Charn, where they wake up the evil Queen Jadis. There, they witness the creation of the Land of Narnia as it is sung into being by the Great Lion, Aslan. When Digory and Polly attempt to send the wicked witch, Jadis, back to her own world, the magic gets mixed up and they all land in Narnia, where they witness Aslan blessing the animals with human speech. (Fantasy/Allegory)

5. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by Bryan Mealer, William Kamkwamba (*Young Readers Edition*)

Summary: When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library...and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and thus became the local hero who harnessed the wind. (Biography)

6. *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

Summary: Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. (Historical Fiction)

Entering 7th Grade: Choose from one of the following:

1. *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Summary: Young Mattie Cook, living in Philadelphia, struggles with the aftermath of the American Revolution and the onslaught of the plague. Read about her fight for survival. (Historical Fiction)

2. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson.

Summary: Tells the story of Woodson's childhood, in verse. In these poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. It also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories. (Poetry and Memoir)

3. *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch, and Martin Ganda

Summary: It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe written on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of--so she chose it.

Martin was lucky to even receive a pen pal letter. There were only ten letters, and forty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.

That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

4. *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery (970L)

Summary: Anne Shirley is just eleven-years-old when she is mistakenly sent to the Cuthbert's Farm in place of the boy they requested. Aging siblings, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, decide to give the orphan a chance and agree to let her stay so long as she helps with the farmwork.

5. *Phineas Gage* by John Fleischman (Nonfiction, 1030L)

Summary: A railroad construction foreman, Phineas, was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain; miraculously, he survived another eleven years and became a textbook case in brain science.

6. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne (1000L)

Summary: Nine-year-old Bruno lives in Berlin, Germany, during the Nazi era. His privileged lifestyle has rendered him quite naïve, however, but when his family moves to "Out-With" Poland, Bruno discovers some harsh truths about the world around him.

Entering 8th Grade: Choose from one of the following:

1. *Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City* by Phillip Hoose.

Summary: By winning the state high school basketball championship in 1955, ten teens from an Indianapolis school shattered the myth of their inferiority. (Nonfiction)

2. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Summary: It is 1939. Nazi Germany. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. (Historical Fiction)

3. *Travels With Charley: In Search Of America* by John Steinback (Biography/Memoir, 1010L)

Summary: With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. Along the way he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, the particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and the unexpected kindness of strangers.

4. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Philip Hoose (970L)

Summary: A fascinating and inspirational story about a group of brave middle aged children and their acts of defiance in Denmark during WWII. Based on a true story.

5. *The Duel* by Judith St. George

Summary: Highlights similar aspects of the lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr and examines how the two war heroes and founding fathers ended up in a duel that cost one of them his life.

6. *Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah

Summary: Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her, and life does not get any easier when her father remarries. Adeline and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her step-siblings are spoiled.

Assignment for Summer Reading Novel:

Reading Journal: Choose one novel from the reading list for the grade you will enter in the Fall of 2023. As you read the novel, be an active reader--mark, highlight, or make notes as you see fit so that you may more easily find specific passages. Then, create charts like the ones below. As you read, you will complete the reader response chart. You will also choose five (5) quotes that stand out to you. Copy the quote, the page number and the speaker in the left column. Respond to the questions about the quotes in the right column.

Create two charts like the ones below (you may copy and paste the charts below). Answer the following questions as you read the novel.

Reader Response Prompts	Sample Response
Before Reading: Making predictions: Think about the genre/title/author/setting. What do you think the novel will be about? What makes you think that?	I believe the novel will be about an unlikely friendship developed through an exchange of letters. I think this because the cover shows two very remote settings, and the characters seem to have a connection.
Making predictions: What challenges do you think the characters might face?	
During Reading: Self Monitoring: What have you noticed about the story? Are there parts that have confused you? What reading strategies did you use while reading?	
Inferring: What is the message of the story? What have you noticed that the author might not have explicitly told you? Is the setting important to the story? Why or why not?	
After Reading: What questions do you still have? What questions would you ask the author?	

	Quote Selections: Include quote, speaker and page number.	Sample Quote Response

Quote 1	<p>“Summer was our best season: It was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the treehouse; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colors in a parched landscape; but most of all, summer was Dill.” Scout p. 36</p>	<p>Is there figurative language present? If so, identify it. Why did you choose this quote? Explain the significance. Sample response: There are multiple metaphors in this quote describing summer. I chose this quote because of Scout’s love of summer. I feel like it represents her innocent perception of the season and how she longs for freedom.</p>
Quote 2		
Quote 3		
Quote 4		
Quote 5		