



ELA 8/ELA Honors: Mr. Campbell
Summer Reading Assignment 2026 - 2027
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Dear students,

I look forward to getting to know you and working with you next school year! In the meantime, I hope you will have a wonderful summer break with your families and friends. During this time off, try to set aside time to read. As you know, the only way to improve your reading skills is to read; there's no short-cut to becoming a strong reader. All incoming 8th graders are required to complete a summer reading assignment, and it is outlined below.

Step 1:

Choose any book that's grade-level appropriate (no *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *I Survived*, etc.) and read it. I simply want you to read something that you will enjoy! Please choose something that you haven't read before. If you need suggestions, here is a list:

<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/w65e7rza/8th-grade-recommended-reading-list>. You should not read any book on this list that you have read in previous grades (The Giver, Outsiders, etc.)

Also, do not use the books on the list below, as we will be reading these in class this year

Refugee by Alan Gratz

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Night by Elie Wiesel

House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Maze Runner by James Dashner

If you're not sure if your chosen book is grade-level appropriate, please email me. **I'm happy to help!**

Step 2:

Prepare a 3-minute book talk about your chosen book to share with the class. Create a slideshow with the information listed below. Your goal is to convince the class to read your chosen book! Your book talk should include the following elements:

1. Title of the book and author's name
2. Why did you choose this book?
3. General author info: other books, relevant background, etc.
4. Genre
5. Setting
6. Main characters- which character was your favorite and least favorite?
7. Conflict that the main characters face
8. Brief plot overview (but don't give away the ending!)
9. Read a brief excerpt of an important passage that will capture your audience's attention.
10. Recommendation! How would you rate the book? Who else would like to read this book? What score would you give out of 10?

Step 3:

Decide on your preferred method of presentation and practice before recording or presenting.

You may choose to present your book talk in one of the following ways:

- 1) *Live to the class*- these presentations will begin on the second day of school. You may use note cards, but should not just read straight from them. This option will result in 5 extra credit points
- 2) *Present just to me*- you may also perform your presentation to just me on one day after school. Please make arrangements if you plan to do this
- 3) *Record it at home* and send it to Mr. Campbell by the due date. If you choose to email it, please put in the subject line "First Name Last Name Book Talk"
 - [Sample Book Talk 1](#)
 - [Sample Book Talk 2](#) -extended version with discussion questions (not needed), but the first part is really good!

Assignments are due on the 2nd Friday of school, but if you are recording at home, you may send your finished product to the email below. **This will be your first grade of the 26-27 school year.** Please reach out if you have any questions this summer! I look forward to meeting you and learning all about your chosen book!

Sincerely,

Conner Campbell

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