



# 2026 Grade 6-8 Required Summer Reading

Happy Summer!

For the last several years, we have relied on student choice regarding summer reading and have provided a list of texts that we recommend. While we expect students to read for pleasure at an appropriate level (at least one book during the summer), we are also reintroducing grade-wide required summer reading texts starting this year.

The goal for this change is to get students ready to engage some of the content that they will be experiencing in their Humanities classes next year. These texts will serve as a common thread for everyone as we return in September and can be a touchstone for students throughout the year.

The required summer reading books for each grade are below. We want students to enjoy the reading as much as possible, so no annotations are required. That said, there are some things to think about while reading so that students come back ready to engage the text during our first and second weeks of school.

## Grade 6

[Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief](#) by Rick Riordan

*While reading:* Consider this — if you were a demigod like Percy, what Greek god or goddess would you want to be related to? Why? What about their interests and powers makes you think of yourself? Be ready to write about this on the first day back to school.

## Grade 7

[It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood](#) by Trevor Noah (adapted for young readers)

*While reading:* Please use sticky notes or dogeared pages to mark TEN (10) passages that are meaningful to you in some way. These could be stories that resonate with your experience, new things you learned that are meaningful about South African culture, or just interesting things you think are worth talking more about with your classmates and teachers during the first week back to school.

## Grade 8

[This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women](#) edited by Jay Ellison

*While reading:* Please use sticky notes or dogeared pages to mark FIVE (5) of the essays that are meaningful to you in some way. These could resonate with your own belief systems, frustrate or confuse you in some way that you'd like to unpack in class, or just be interesting ways of looking at the world that you would like to explore more fully with your classmates and teachers during the first week back to school.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Have a great summer,  
Upper School Humanities Team