



Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools
Grades 6-8 "Summer Slide" Reading Challenge

Did you know that research shows that summer vacation can UNDO months of learning from the school year? We call it the "Summer Slide." Students can have up to a 2-3 month loss in reading ability over the summer when they are not in a formal learning environment or not engaged in any form of educational activities during the summer. We are aiming to prevent that by introducing our Summer 2019 Reading Challenge for kids in grades 6-8. The goal is for students to read at least 15-30 minutes every day this summer!

Summer Reading Challenge Expectations:

- Students in grades 6-8 are expected to read 2-5 fiction and non-fiction books over the summer break. (See the attached list)
- Students can visit the [Find a Book, Georgia](#) site and enter the grade level of the student and check the statement that best describes the student's comfort with reading, and a Lexile range will be generated.
- Another way to target summer reading materials is to have students read materials that fall within the demand of text ranges by grade level. These ranges represent the demand of text that students should be reading to be College and Career Ready by the end of Grade 12. Using these ranges may help identify challenging reading material for students.
- **Upon returning to school in the fall, all students will have until August 26, 2019 to electronically submit a summary and personal reflection for each book read. Links for submitting summaries and reflections: <http://bit.ly/6-8MiddleSchoolSummerReading>**
- In each electronic submission, students will use a Google form to submit a two-paragraph summary of the book as well as a reflection of their thoughts, feelings, connections made, and/or

analysis of author’s craft and purpose. All student entries will be reviewed by the ELA Department and those that meet requirements will be submitted for district-wide prize drawings, included class sets of books, pizza, classroom technology, dress down days, and more. The more submissions per students and per school, the more likely students and schools can win multiple prize packages.

Grade Level Requirements:

Grades 6-8	Due by: August 26, 2019
Read/listen to at least 2 books	
Submit a reflection & summary for each book via designated school/grade link	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://bit.ly/6-8MiddleSchoolSummerReading • You're done! 	

Recommended Lexile Levels:

Lexile	Text Measures	To find books on your child's Lexile level, visit http://Lexile.com/fab/GA And enter the Lexile score or grade level. Q. Where do I find my child's Lexile Level? A. Check their most recent GMAS ELA score report.
6	925L to 1070L	
7	970L to 1120L	
8	1010L to 1185L	

Suggested Texts:

Title	Author	Summary	Lexile
Miracle's Boys	Jacqueline Woodson	For Lafayette and his brothers, the challenges of growing up in New York City are compounded by the facts that they've lost their parents and it's up to eldest brother Ty'ree to support the boys, and middle brother Charlie has just returned home from a correctional facility. Lafayette loves his brothers and would do anything if they could face the world as a team. However, even though Ty'ree cares, he is just so busy with work and responsibility. In addition, Charlie has changed so much that his former affection for his little brother has turned to open hostility. Now, as Lafayette approaches 13, he needs the guidance and answers only his brothers can give him. The events of one dramatic weekend force the boys to make the choice to be there for each other--to really see each other--or to give in to the pain and problems of every day	660 L
The Boy Who Dared	Susan Campbell Bartoletti	A Newbery Honor Book author has written a powerful and gripping novel about a youth in Nazi Germany who tells the truth about Hitler. Bartoletti has taken one episode from her Newbery Honor Book, HITLER YOUTH, and fleshed it out into thought provoking novel. When 16-year-old Helmut Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal shortwave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. However, when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he is tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmut's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of	760 L

		the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself	
Rules	Cynthia Lord	From an exciting new voice comes a candid and witty look at feeling different and finding acceptance-beyond the rules. Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She has spent years trying to teach David the rules-from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public!"-in order to head off his embarrassing behaviors. However, the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it is her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?	780 L
The Lawn Boy	Gary Paulsen	One day I was 12 years old and broke. Then Grandma gave me Grandpa's old riding lawn mower. I set out to mow some lawns. More people wanted me to mow their lawns. And more and more. . . . One client was Arnold the stockbroker, who offered to teach me about "the beauty of capitalism. Supply and Demand. Diversify labor. Distribute the wealth." "Wealth?" I said. "It's groovy, man," said Arnold. "If I'd known what was coming, I might have climbed on my mower and putted all the way home to hide in my room." But the lawn business grew and grew. So did my profits, which Arnold invested in many things. And one of them was Joey Pow the prizefighter. That's when my 12th summer got really interesting.	780 L
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	A reissue of Pam Munoz Ryan's bestselling backlist with a distinctive new author treatment. Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden	800 L

		tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it	
Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board	Bethany Hamilton	They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing, not even the loss of her arm, could come between her and the waves? That Halloween morning in Kauai, Hawaii, Bethany responded to the shark's stealth attack with the calm of a girl with God on her side. Pushing pain and panic aside, she began to paddle with one arm, focusing on a single thought: "Get to the beach...." Soul Surfer is a moving account of Bethany's life as a young surfer, her recovery after the attack, the adjustments she's made to her unique surfing style, her unprecedented bid for a top showing in the World Surfing Championships, and, most fundamentally, her belief in God. It is a story of girl power and spiritual grit that shows the body is no more essential to surfing perhaps even less so than the soul.	960 L
2001: A Space Odyssey	Arthur C. Clarke	2001: A Space Odyssey tackles the enduring theme of man's place in the universe. On the moon an enigma is uncovered. So great are the implications, that, for the first time, men are sent out deep into the solar system. But, before they can reach their destination, things begin to go wrong. Horribly wrong.	106 OL
The Kingdom on the	M.T. Anderson	Fearing a death sentence, Octavian and his tutor, Dr. Trefusis, escape through rising tides and pouring rain to find shelter in British-occupied Boston. Sundered from all he knows — the College	106 OL

Waves		of Lucidity, the rebel cause — Octavian hopes to find safe harbor. Instead, he is soon to learn of Lord Dunmore's proclamation offering freedom to slaves who join the counterrevolutionary forces.	
<i>The Crossover</i>	Kwame Alexander	<i>"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks ... The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering,"</i> announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander (<i>He Said, She Said</i> 2013). Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.	66 OL
<i>One Crazy Summer</i>	Rita Williams Garcia	Eleven-year-old Delphine has it together. Even though her mother, Cecile, abandoned her and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, seven years ago. Even though her father and Big Ma will send them from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to stay with Cecile for the summer. And even though Delphine will have to take care of her sisters, as usual, and learn the truth about the missing pieces of the past. When the girls arrive in Oakland in the summer of 1968, Cecile wants nothing to do with them. She makes them eat Chinese takeout dinners, forbids them to enter her kitchen, and never explains the strange visitors with Afros and black berets who knock on her door. Rather than spend time with them, Cecile sends Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern to a summer camp sponsored by a revolutionary group, the Black	75 OL

		Panthers, where the girls get a radical new education. Set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history, one crazy summer is the heartbreaking, funny tale of three girls in search of the mother who abandoned them.	
<i>Among the Hidden</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	Among the Hidden is a thought-provoking story set in of the not too distant future that explores the choices and challenges faced by an early adolescent boy as he struggles to find his place in a world in which his existence is illegal. Luke, a third child, lives in a future where each family is allowed to have only two children. Because his parents broke the population laws when they let him live...	80 OL
<i>Won't Know till I Get There</i>	Walter Dean Myers	When Steve's parents decide to adopt a foster child, it seems like a good idea. And when Steve decides to show the new kid how tough he is by spray-painting the side of a subway car, that seems like a good idea too. But the foster child turns out to be a thirteen-year-old with a criminal record, and the guys in the designer jeans watching Steve spray-paint graffiti turn out to be transit police. Suddenly Steve and the whole gang are serving time, working in an old-age home with a bunch of feisty and independent senior citizens who refuse to sit still and be stereotyped - by anybody	84 OL
<i>We Were There, Too!</i>	Phillip Hoopes	From the boys who sailed with Columbus to today's young activists, this unique book brings to life the contributions of young people throughout American history. Based on primary sources and including 160 authentic images, this handsome oversized volume highlights the fascinating stories of	95 OL

		<p>more than 70 young people from diverse cultures. The first U.S. history book of this scope to focus on the role young people have played in the making of our country, its compelling stories combine to tell our larger national story, one that prompts Howard Zinn, author of A People's History of the United States, to comment, "This is an extraordinary book-wonderfully readable, inspiring to young and old alike, and unique."</p>	
<p><i>The Wonder of Charlie Ann</i></p>	<p>Kimberly Newton Fuscio</p>	<p>Charlie Anne is devastated when her father must go north to build roads after the Depression hits. She and her siblings are left with their rigid cousin, Mirabel, and a farm full of chores. The only solace Charlie Anne finds is by the river, where the memory of her mother is strongest. Then her neighbor Old Mr. Jolly brings home a new wife, Rosalyn, who shows up in pants-pants!-the color of red peppers. With her arrives Phoebe, a young African American girl who has also lost her mother. Phoebe is smart and fun and the perfect antidote to Charlie Anne's lonely days. The girls soon forge a friendship and learn from each other in amazing ways. But when hatred turns their town ugly, it's almost more than they can bear. Now it's up to Charlie Anne and Phoebe to prove that our hearts are always able to expand. From the Hardcover edition.</p>	<p>97 OL</p>
<p><i>Seeing Redd</i></p>	<p>Frank Beddor</p>	<p>Alyss of Wonderland's rules has only just begun and already those who prefer chaos to peace are threatening to destroy everything worth imagining. Trailed by newly appointed Royal Bodyguard Homburg Molly, Alyss is doing her best to keep pace with the non-stop demands of being Queen while</p>	<p>108 OL</p>

		attempting to evade Molly for a few private moments with Dodge. Alyss's life is already a challenging mix of duty, love and imagining when a series of phantom sightings set fire to an urban myth of her imperial viciousness return and have everyone...Seeing Redd.	
<i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>	John Boyne	Berlin 1942 When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences. From the Hardcover edition.	108 OL
<i>Golden Boy</i>	Tara Sullivan	Thirteen-year-old Habo has always been different - light eyes, yellow hair and white skin. Not the good brown skin his family has and not the white skin of tourists. Habo is strange and alone. His father, unable to accept Habo, abandons the family; his mother can scarcely look at him. His brothers are cruel and the other children never invite him to play. Only his sister Asu loves him well. But even Asu can't take the sting away when the family is forced from their small Tanzanian village, and Habo knows he is to blame. Seeking refuge in Mwanza, Habo and his family journey across the	82 OL

		<p>Serengeti. His aunt is glad to open her home until she sees Habo for the first time, and then she is only afraid. Suddenly, Habo has a new word for himself: Albino. But they hunt Albinos in Mwanza because Albino body parts are thought to bring good luck. And soon Habo is being hunted by a fearsome man with a machete. To survive, Habo must not only run, but find a way to love and accept himself.</p>	
<p><i>This Journal Belongs to Ratchet</i></p>	<p>Nancy J. Cavanaugh</p>	<p>It's the first day of school for all the kids in the neighborhood. But not for Ratchet; she's homeschooled. That means nothing new. No new book bag, no new clothes, and no friends, old or new. The best she's got is her notebook. She's supposed to use it for her writing assignments, but her dad never checks. Here's what she's really going to use it for: a top-secret plan to turn her old, recycled, freakish, friendless, motherless life into something shiny and new.</p>	<p>83 OL</p>
<p><i>Revolutions</i></p>	<p>Deborah Wiles</p>	<p>Readers are given two viewpoints from very different worlds during the tumultuous Freedom Summer of 1964 in Greenwood, Mississippi. Sunny, a 12 year old white girl, is worried about reports of "invaders" descending upon the sleepy Southern town and causing trouble. Meanwhile, Raymond, a black youth, is becoming increasingly aware of all the places, especially the public pool and Leflore's theater, he is barred from due to Jim Crow laws. As their worldviews expand and they begin to learn more about the sinister side of a seemingly perfect town, Sunny's and Raymond's stories intersect.</p>	<p>84 OL</p>

<p><i>Discovering Wes Moore</i></p>	<p>Wes Moore</p>	<p>Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart and within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods. Both ran into trouble with the police. How did one grow up to be a Rhodes scholar and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? When Wes Moore wrote to his namesake in prison, they began a remarkable friendship. This story looks at the challenges of growing up and the power of the choices that people make in their lives.</p>	<p>840 L</p>
<p><i>With Their Eyes: September 11th - The View from a High School at Ground Zero</i></p>	<p>Edited by Annie Thomas Taresh Batra</p>	<p>I could have died that day. September 11, 2001 Monologues from Stuyvesant High School Tuesday, September 11, started off like any other day at Stuyvesant High School, located only a few blocks away from the World Trade Center. The semester was just beginning, and the students, faculty, and staff were ready to begin a new year. But within a few hours on that Tuesday morning, they would all share an experience that transformed their lives. Now, on the tenth anniversary of September 11th, we remember those who were lost and those who were forced to witness this tragedy. Here, in their own words, are the firsthand stories of a day we will never forget.</p>	<p>100 OL</p>
<p><i>Elijah of Buxton</i></p>	<p>Chris Paul Curtis</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known for having made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass, but that changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has</p>	<p>107 OL</p>

		<p>been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the thief and discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled--a life from which he'll always be free, if he can find the courage to get back home.</p>	
<p><i>The Beekeeper's Apprentice</i></p>	<p>Laurie R. King</p>	<p>What would happen if Sherlock Holmes, a perfect man of the Victorian age--pompous, smug, and misogynistic--were to come face to face with a twentieth-century female? If she grew to be a partner worthy of his great talents? Laurie R. King, whose very different first novel, <i>A Grave Talent</i> (SMP, 1993), drew rave reviews, read the Conan Doyle stories and wondered about such an imaginary encounter. And following through, she has written <i>The Beekeeper's Apprentice</i>. 1914, a young woman named Mary Russell meets a retired beekeeper on the Sussex Downs. His name is Sherlock Holmes. And although he may have all the Victorian "flaws" listed above, the Great Detective is no fool, and can spot a fellow intellect even in a fifteen-year-old woman. So, at first informally, then consciously, he takes Mary Russell as his apprentice.</p>	<p>110 0</p>
<p><i>The Winter Room</i></p>	<p>Gary Paulsen</p>	<p>The winter room is where Eldon, his brother Wayne, old Uncle David, and the rest of the family gather on icy cold nights, sitting in front of the stove. There the boys listen eagerly to all of Uncle David's tales of superheroes. Then one night Uncle David tells the story, "The Woodcutter," and what happens next is terrible--then wonderful.</p>	<p>117 OL</p>

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