



# KZV's Summer Reading Program



Dear Parents,

Once again, we will be requiring summer assignments for KZV's learning community. Research shows that summer reading loss or "summer slide" is a problematic loss of grade-level skills, and having a robust summer learning program with concentrated reading time helps build vocabulary, improves focus, and decreases screen time for students. This program will give students the opportunity to read and share their ideas or projects when they return for the new school year.

Each child will receive the following information and materials for the summer reading program:

1. a required reading list
2. a recommended reading list (for elementary grades)
3. a summary form or project sheet (if any), and
4. a reading log or assignment directions.

## REQUIRED READING FOR ALL GRADES:

**Grades 1-4:** Students in grades 1-4 are required to read three **(3)** books

**Grades 5:** Students in grade 5 are required to read two **(2)** books.

**Grades 6-8:** Students in grades 6 are required to read **(2)** books.

Students in grades 7 are required to read **(2)** books.

Students in grades 8 are required to read **(3)** books.

Each student who fulfills this requirement will receive a grade for participating in this program. Students who do not complete summer reading are at risk of falling behind their classmates

The reading log and any projects (book reports, summaries, etc.) required by the teacher is **due the first week of school**. Teachers may also use assessments upon return, so students need to be prepared to discuss and respond to questions about their books.

Books are available at your local library, bookstore or online. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Have a wonderful summer!



Sincerely,  
The English Language Arts Department

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING INFORMATION

## INCOMING SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING

**You will have to read and annotate D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths. You can buy this from Amazon - here is the link: <https://a.co/d/benzHGI>**

In fifth grade, you read The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. This book is FULL of mythological and Biblical references. Now I want you to dive deeper into the characters.

As you read, you will have to annotate your book with post-it notes. As you read, take a post it note and make sure to write the following. When you do, stick the sticky note onto the page - your book should be FULL OF POST IT NOTES!

Label and annotate the following:

\* The names of the 12 gods on Mount Olympus, what they were the god of and one cool fact about each god.

- \* Prometheus
- \* Pandora
- \* Deucalion
- \* Eos
- \* Helios
- \* Selene
- \* Pan
- \* Echo
- \* the Centaurs
- \* the Nine Muses
- \* Tantalus - What was his punishment?
- \* Perseus and Medusa
- \* Sisyphus
- \* Theseus
- \* The Minotaur
- \* Oedipus
- \* The story of Jason and the Golden Fleece
- \* Circe
- \* The story of the apples of love and the apples of discord

**PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST READ THIS BOOK BEFORE MOVING ON TO PART TWO!!!!**  
**Part Two (UPDATED)**

**Students entering 6th will also have to read THE GIVER by Lois Lowry**

In Lois Lowry's Newbery Medal-winning classic, twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind his fragile community.

Available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/ikTSEIo>

As you read this book, you can think about references to mythology or the Bible. Please put a sticky note onto the page where you find the following symbols. Then describe what you think this might SYMBOLIZE. Hint: Some of these are referencing stories from The Bible...

The color red

Apples

the sled

light eyes

the river

Gabriel (hint, he is an angel in the Bible)

December

Number 12 (hint: think of this number in the Bible and in mythology)

## INCOMING SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

1. **ARMAVENI**, by Nadine Takvorian. You must purchase this book, and read it. Parents will be sent a letter that details the fact that there are a couple bad words in there (A\*\*hole and SH\*t) and also some stories from the genocide that you are well aware of. The book is being used at numerous schools and will be showcased this year at the NCTE conference.

You can purchase it here: <https://a.co/d/07l3w2Hn>

After reading Armaveni this summer, you will create a MINIMUM four-panel graphic narrative inspired by your family history, Armenian identity, or stories connected to the Armenian Genocide passed down through relatives. Use graphic novel techniques such as panels, dialogue, narration boxes, symbolism, and visual contrast to tell your story. You will not be graded on artistic ability, but on your creativity, effort, and ability to communicate meaning through storytelling - and of course, neatness.. Your comic must include at least ONE mythological reference and ONE Armenian archetype (such as the survivor, storyteller, protector, immigrant, or matriarch).

After completing your comic, write a five-paragraph essay to your future English teacher responding to the following prompt- this should be typed in MLA format, printed out, and given to her at the beginning of the school year. Do NOT use AI.

**How did Armaveni help you better understand Armenian identity, memory, and the lasting impact of the Armenian Genocide? How do the stories in your own family connect to the themes in the book? Use examples from Armaveni, your family history, and your graphic narrative in your essay.**

2. **THE BOOK THIEF**, Marcus Zusak. Read, annotate, and be ready to do an activity or essay with your teacher where you will compare both stories.

**Required reading for entering 8th Grade (NOT FOR 7th)**

**Required Reading: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton**

<https://a.co/d/i87NtMc>

1. S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. S.E. Hinton first published The Outsiders in 1967 by Viking Press. Since then, the book has sold upwards of 15 million copies, become a steady feature on middle school reading lists, and inspired an award winning Francis Ford Coppola film of the same name. You will watch the film in class later in September.

2. Assignment: Read the novel, and be ready to discuss the book. I am sure the teacher will do some kind of assessment.

**Suggested (not required)**

**Those students applying to private schools should have this practice book for the HSPT.**

<https://a.co/d/j2rRhxJ>