

2017 RCPS Summer Reading Requirement Options for Rising Sixth-Twelfth Grade Students

All students entering grades 6-12 for the 2017-2018 school-year are required to complete a summer reading assignment. To better equip students for success with these assignments, before the end of the year, teachers will conference with students about their book selections and the required assignments. All students who enroll in Rockdale County Public Schools prior to August 7 are required to complete the summer reading assignments. For Summer 2017, we are offering two summer reading options for students. Please read and discuss the Summer Reading Requirements below with your child to determine which option is best for him/her.

Option 1:

1. Students must read one book from the required reading list for the grade level they will enter August 2017.
2. Students must complete three short assignments on the required book they selected; these are due August 11. The specific guidelines and rubric for the assignments are included on the next page.
3. *All students, including those in Program Challenge(PC)/Excel, may select any book on their respective grade level lists. There is not a separate book list for PC/Excel students.*

Option 2: (available only to students who had Achieve 3000 access during the 2016-2017 school year):

In the Achieve 3000 on-line platform, your child will read high-interest, informational articles, customized to match his/her specific reading level. Each article includes a variety of fun activities to improve your child's comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. It is important that your child's answers to the questions reflect work completed independently and without extra assistance.

1. Students must complete a minimum of **10 activities** on the Achieve 3000 platform. A complete activity consists of:
 - a. Responding to the Before Reading Poll,
 - b. Reading the Article,
 - c. Answering the Activity Questions,
 - d. Responding to the After Reading Poll, and
 - e. Answering the open-ended Thought Question (only required for 3 of the 10 articles)
2. Students must score a minimum average of 75% on 10 reading activities. You will see the score in the program platform.
3. *All students, including those in Program Challenge(PC)/Excel courses will complete the same Achieve 3000 assignment. There is not a separate Achieve 3000 assignment for PC/Excel students.*

Students who choose Option 2 should log into Achieve 3000 by using their Clever login. Please write down your child's Clever login before the end of the school year as there is not an option to retrieve forgotten username/password from this site. Please note that students can only access Achieve 3000 through June 30. If a student does not complete all 10 activities by this date, he/she will have to complete Option 1.

If you have questions about the Summer Reading Requirements, please contact your child's school.

Special Note: RCPS is pleased to announce that students may check out titles from the summer reading lists and other high interest books from the Summer Lunch Mobile Program. School buses will visit neighborhoods across Rockdale each day to deliver lunches and books. Please note that the Nancy Guinn library has limited copies of titles from the Summer Reading List, so we strongly encourage students to take advantage of this additional resource.

Revised: May 15, 2017

**RCPS Sixth Grade Summer Reading List
Summer 2017**

TITLE	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LEXILE	GENRE
<i>Miracle Boys</i>	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.	660L	Fiction
<i>The Boy Who Dared</i>	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 short-wave 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 the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.	760L	Historical Fiction
<i>Rules</i>	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?	780L	Fiction
<i>The Lawn Boy</i>	Gary Paulsen	One day I was 12 years old and broke. Then Grandma gave me Grandpa's old riding lawnmower. 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.	780L	Fiction
<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	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 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.	800L	Historical Fiction
<i>Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board</i>	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...." <i>Soul Surfer</i> 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.	960L	Biography
<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i>	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.	1060	Fiction
<i>The Kingdom on the Waves</i>	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 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.	1060	Fiction



RCPS Summer Reading Option 1 Assignment Guidelines

Please write an essay that includes the following:

- **First Paragraph-Summary/Critique**

Write or type a well-developed summary (approximately 300 words) of the book, emphasizing the plot or key details. Be sure to include the genre (i.e., biography, mystery, information, etc.), title of the book, and the author. As you start to write, remember to grab the reader's attention by creating a sense of humor, wonder, mystery, curiosity, etc. These feelings cause the reader to want to know what happens next.

- **Second Paragraph-Theme/Central Idea**

Identify the theme (general lesson about life in a fictional text) or central idea (main idea that the author wants to convey about the topic of a non-fiction text) of the book you read. Choose three (3) quotes that support the theme or central idea. For each quote, write a well-developed paragraph that explains how the quote relates to the theme or central idea. Consider choosing one quote each from the beginning, middle, and end of the book to ensure you identify an appropriate and logical theme or central idea.

- **Third Paragraph-Recommendation**

Persuade or dissuade someone to read your book. Using specific details, explain why you did or did not enjoy reading this book. In addition, be sure to include details that explain the type of reader for whom the book was written, i.e. athletes, nature-lovers, mystery-readers, risk-takers, etc. *Although you may not have liked your book, the author must have had someone in mind when writing it.*

Directions: Students must complete the required three parts of the assignment. Students will receive a score for each part of the assignment submitted (see rubric). A score of zero will be given for any part of the assignment not submitted. Please see rubric on the next page for specific requirements and scoring procedures.

Deadline: The summer reading assignment is due to your English Language Arts teacher August 11, 2017. *All students who enroll in Rockdale County Public Schools prior to August 7 are required to complete the summer reading assignments.*

RCPS SUMMER READING OPTION 1 SCORING RUBRIC

	DISTINGUISHED	PROFICIENT	DEVELOPING	BEGINNING
<p>Summary: (Maximum 10 Points)</p> <p>Standard: RL/RI2 Summarize the key supporting details and ideas</p>	10 9	8 7	6 5	4 3
<p>Theme/Central Idea (Maximum: 25 Points)</p> <p>Standard: RL/RI1-Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.</p> <p>RL/RI2-Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development</p>	25 24	23 22	21 20	19 18
<p>Recommendation: (Maximum 10 Points)</p> <p>Standard: RL/RI1-Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text</p>	10 9	8 7	6 5	4 3
<p>Grammar/Conventions: (5 Points)</p> <p>Standard: L1/L2- Demonstrate the command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, spelling</p>	5	4	3	2

Score Range	<p>Assignment Points: _____/50</p> <p>Teacher Commentary:</p>
Distinguished= 47-50	
Proficient= 40-43	
Developing= 33-36	
Beginning= 26-29	