

SRMS Summer Reading 2026

Dear Students,

Research shows that students benefit from summer reading. For this reason, we require you to read **two** books over the summer. Select books that you will not only enjoy but which will also prepare you for the rigors of middle school. The novels you choose should be grade appropriate books you haven't yet read.

For each of your two books choices, complete a One-Page Novel Response.

If you are finding it difficult to select novels, please consult the List of Authors by Genre at the end of this packet. The novels you select should be **grade-level appropriate** and of interest to you. A parent/guardian should also approve your choices.

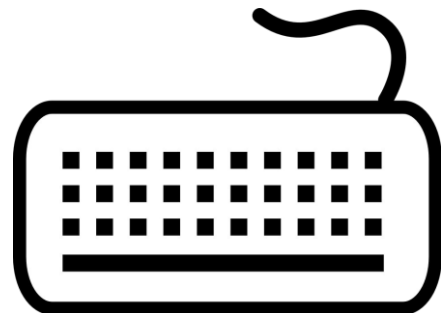
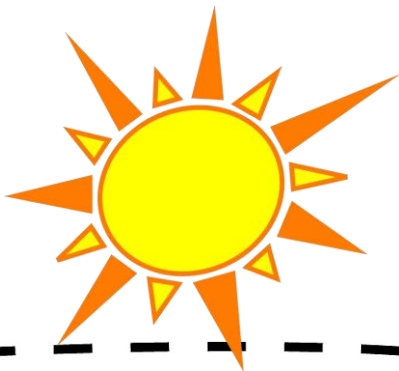
You will find a model of a One-Page Novel Response before the blank templates. Your 2 One-Page Novel Responses should reflect your best effort, creativity, and imagination.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

The Staff of SRMS

**Want to get ahead?
Teach yourself word processing
this summer.**



**It's free:
www.typing.com/typinglessons**

One-Page Novel Response Rubric

	Exceeds Expectations (4)	Meets Expectations (3)	Approaching Expectations (2)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)
Content	Well thought out answers provide insight into the novel and reflect a deep understanding of the text; a full understanding of literary elements is evident	Answers provide insight into the novel and reflect an understanding of the text; understanding of literary elements is apparent	Answers provide limited insight into the novel and reflect some understanding of the text; understanding of literary elements is inconsistent	Answers do not insight into the novel and reflect little understanding of the text; understanding of literary elements is not evident
Required Elements	All of the required elements are clearly visible; information is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner	All of the required elements are represented; information is presented in an organized manner	Most of the required elements are represented; information is generally organized	Several of the required elements are missing; information is poorly organized
Presentation	Presentation is neat, colorful, and eye-catching, and creative; project stands out	Presentation is neat, colorful, and creative	Presentation could be neater or more colorful, and more creative	Presentation is not neat, colorful, or creative
Conventions	The project is free from spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors; all content that is not quoted is in the student's own words; strong word choice	The project has very few spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors; all content that is not quoted is in the student's own words; good word choice	The project has several spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors; content that is not quoted is nearly all in the student's own words; word choice could be stronger	The project has many spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors; content is not in student's own words; poor word choice
Submitted on Time	Task submitted on 9/4/2026	Task submitted on 9/4/2026	Task submitted on 9/4/2026	Task submitted on or after 9/4/2026
Total Points:				

One-Page Novel Responses

Directions:

1. Select and read two grade-level appropriate novels/books of your choice.
2. Complete a template for each of the two novels/books.
3. Use the directions that follow to complete the center rectangle, top, bottom, and sides of template.
4. In each of the remaining four boxes, select and complete one of the options below. If you are unable to print the assignment template, you may create and complete your own.
5. **Reminder:** *The majority of your grade is based on content, but creative effort also counts. Consult the attached rubric. Your work should be neat, colorful, and thorough.*
6. Summer reading tasks are due to your English teacher on Friday, September 4, 2026.

Options:

Setting & Mood: Draw one of the settings from the book including as much detail as possible. Surround the drawing with 3 adjectives that describe the mood that the setting helps create.

Symbolism: Draw a key symbol from the book and write a sentence in your own words explaining the importance of the symbol

Connecting to the Text: Write the title and artist of a school-appropriate song. Write at least 4 lines of song lyrics that connect to one aspect of the book and a two-sentence explanation of the connection.

Character: Create an image of your character. Around your character, create a word cluster of at least six character traits.

Rating & Review: Create your own rating system and rate the novel. Write a 3-5 sentence review of the novel.

Design a Bumper Sticker: Design a bumper sticker that conveys one of the messages or themes of the novel.

Acrostic Poem: Using the title of the novel, create an acrostic poem using description of or details about the novel.

Venn Diagram: Create a Venn diagram to compare & contrast two characters from the book.

Student Name: _____

In this border, write one meaningful quote from the book with the page number.

Place one option
in this box.

Place one option
in this box.

In this border, write one meaningful quote from the book with the page number.

In this rectangle,
write the title and the author of the book.

Place one option
in this box.

Place one option
in this box.

In this border, list 3 words that represent themes from the book.

Student Name: Ms. Kendra Stefanski

"But last night I pouted when Mother insisted one of my brothers must rise first this morning to bless our home because only male feet can bring luck." — p. 2

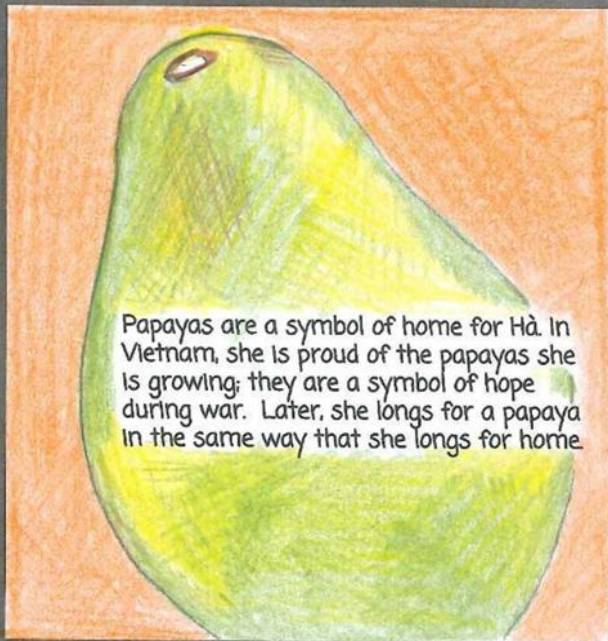


You don't know how it feels
To be outside the crowd
You don't know what it's like
To be left out
And you don't know how it feels
To be your own best friend on the outside looking in
If you could read my mind
You might see more of me than meets the eye
And you've been all wrong
Not who you think I am
You've never given me a chance

- "Outside Looking In"
By Jordan Pruitt

Hà feels "dumb" when the class applauds when she counts to 20. She desperately wants to tell them that she knows fractions—but she doesn't know the words. She wears a nightgown to school because she doesn't know that flannel is for pajamas. She is constantly on the "outside looking in."

Inside Out & Back Again By Thanhha Lai



Papayas are a symbol of home for Hà. In Vietnam, she is proud of the papayas she is growing; they are a symbol of hope during war. Later, she longs for a papaya in the same way that she longs for home.

In the middle of war
Now is the time to leave
Saigon has fallen
I board the boat to the unknown
Desperate for news about father
Escape from Vietnam

Our voyage is long and dangerous
Unobserved by the communists
The Americans rescue us

Brothers by my side
Alabama is now my home
Cowboy sponsors my family
Kids ridicule me at school

A kind woman teaches me English
Giving up hope for father's return
A year of many changes
I wish for papayas
Nothing is the same

FAMILY

ACCEPTANCE

FEAR

"All the while surging from my gut: fire, sourness, weight, anger, loneliness, confusion, embarrassment, shame" — p. 207-208

Student Name: _____

Student Name: _____



Summer Reading Authors Listed by Genre

HUMOR

Gantos, Jack

Kinney, Jeff

Korman, Gordon

Patterson, James

HISTORY

Boyne, John

Gratz, Alan

Marino, Andy

Nielsen, Jennifer A.

Sepetys, Ruta

Skrypuch, Marsha

Tarshis, Lauren

MYTHOLOGY

Riordan, Rick

SPORTS

Alexander, Kwame

Deuker, Carl

Feinstein, John

Green, Tim

Greenwald, Tom

Lupica, Mike

SCIENCE FICTION

Adams, Douglas

Cline, Ernest

Lore, Pittacus

Sanderson, Brandon

Shusterman, Neal

Westerfeld, Scott

Yancy, Rick

ADVENTURE

Bowling, Dusti

Brallier, Max

Haddix, Margaret P.

Horowitz, Anthony

Patterson, James

Paulsen, Gary

Tarshis, Lauren

TEEN FICTION

Cabot, Meg

Cass, Kiera

Dee, Barbara

De La Cruz, Melissa

Dessen, Sarah

Han, Jenny

Mass, Wendy

Reynolds, Hannah

West, Kasie

DYSTOPIAN

Collins, Suzanne

Dashner, James

Haddix, Margaret P.

Roth, Veronica

Shusterman, Neal

MYSTERY

Cooney, Caroline B.

Duncan, Lois

Gibbs, Stuart

Henry, April

Hiaasen, Carl

Jackson, Holly

Johnson, Maureen

McManus, Karen M.

WAR

Gratz, Alan

Hughes, Dean

Lynch, Chris

Myers, Walter Dean

Tarshis, Lauren

FANTASY

Aveyard, Victoria

Black, Holly

Clare, Cassandra

Colfer, Eoin

Lu, Marie

Maas, Sarah J.

Nielsen, Jennifer

Riggs, Ransom

Rowling, J.K.

Sutherland, Tui T.

Tolkien, J. R. R.

REALISTIC FICTION

Albom, Mitch

Bauer, Joan

Cameron, W. Bruce

Draper, Sharon

Hinton, S. E.

Kelly, Erin Entrada

Korman, Gordon

Schmidt, Gary D.

HORROR

Alexander, K.R.

Carman, Patrick

Gaiman, Neil

Hahn, Mary Downing

Poblocki, Dan

Stroud, Jonathon

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Chmakova, Svetlana

Hale, Shannon

Kishimoto, Masashi

Libenson, Terri

Lloyd, Megan Wagner

Martin, Ann M.

Miller, Kayla

Pilkey, Dav

Scrivan, Maria

Smith, Jeff

Tarshis, Lauren

Telgemeier, Raina

Thummler, Brenna