



# Clark Public Schools

365 Westfield Avenue • Clark, New Jersey 07066

**Edward Grande**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Tel.: (732) 574-9600 x3392  
Fax: (732) 574-1456  
E-mail: [egrande@clarkschools.org](mailto:egrande@clarkschools.org)

June 9, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Carl H. Kumpf Middle School language arts teachers, supervisor, and I are eager to present the summer reading lists to the sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students for the 2023-2024 school year. Each student, including those slated for an **honors-level course**, will be asked to read the **“required” book** for his/her grade level and **one more book** from the “suggested” list. Students in **resource-level language arts classes** are expected to read the **one “required” book** over the summer; they do **not** need to read any “suggested” books. Please know that resource-level classes are different from In-Class Resource (ICR) sections. These ICR sections are taught by two teachers (regular education and special education) and are considered to be standard level and therefore will follow the standard level assignment.

Students (**not including those in resource classes**) should prepare for a writing/project assignment on the required reading within the first two weeks of school. The graphic organizers (linked below) are to be used as guided reading to help students develop reading analysis skills that will prepare them for their upcoming school year. Students will also be able to use these graphic organizers as they compose their writing/project assignment. These graphic organizers, for both the required reading and the selected reading, will be submitted to your child’s teacher for a grade within the first week of school. Exact due dates will be determined when your child returns to school.

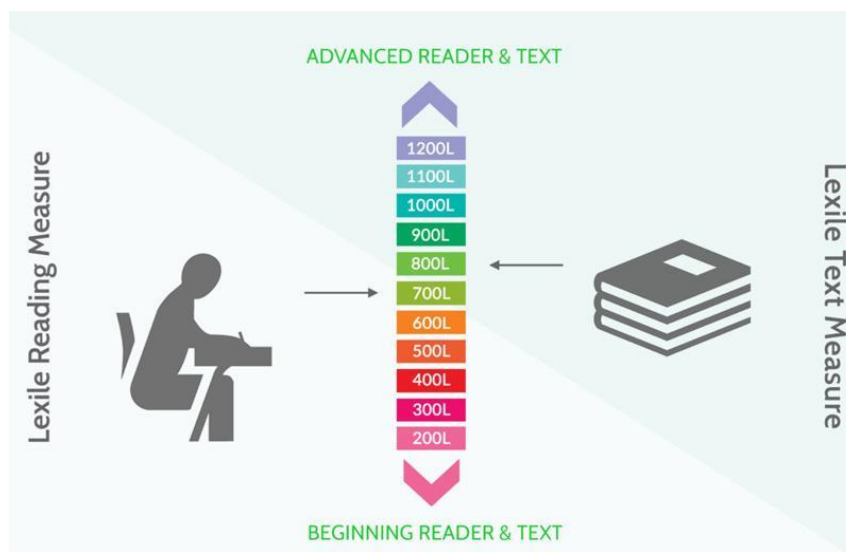
Grade Level	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Linked by Gordon Korman	<a href="#">6th Grade Required Summer Reading Organizer</a>	<a href="#">7th Grade Required Summer Reading Organizer</a>	<a href="#">8th Grade Required Summer Reading Organizer</a>
Selected Reading	<a href="#">6th Grade Selected Summer Reading Organizer</a>	<a href="#">7th Grade Selected Summer Reading Organizer</a>	<a href="#">8th Grade Selected Summer Reading Organizer</a>

**Resource students**, in place of the second book, are to read one fiction and one non-fiction article and then answer the comprehension questions at the end of each article. These articles and questions are linked below. Students in resource classes should complete the above graphic organizer for the required book and be prepared to submit these graphic organizers, along with their answers to the questions at the end of the articles, to their teachers. These students will also be asked to prepare a writing/project assignment on the required book within the first two weeks of school. Again, specific dates will be given upon the students’ return to school in the fall.

Grade Level	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Fiction Story	<a href="#">Unexpected Fortune</a>	<a href="#">Surprise Encounter</a>	<a href="#">Crystal’s Powers</a>
Nonfiction Article	<a href="#">The History of Surfing in Hawaii</a>	<a href="#">The Mystery of the Whistling Building</a>	<a href="#">Pollinators</a>



You will notice that the attached list contains titles for all students, a brief synopsis of each book, and Lexile reading levels. Please be mindful of helping your child choose a book that is commensurate with his/her reading ability, and use the Reading Level column and synopses to assist in making those choices. All books on each grade level list are at or below grade level, so use the image below to gauge where your child may fall in his/her reading ability when choosing an appropriate text. Also, please consult teachers, local librarians, and book websites as you aid your child in choosing books to gain information about reading levels and other information about various titles.



The following table summarizes the above information.

Course Level & Reading Requirements	Honors Level & Standard Level (Including ICR)	Resource Level
Required Reading	<i>Linked</i> by Gordon Korman	<i>Linked</i> by Gordon Korman
Assessment	Graphic organizer on grade level topic & writing assignment/project within the first two weeks of school	Graphic organizer on grade level topic & writing assignment/project within the first two weeks of school
Selected Reading	From grade level reading list	One fiction and one non-fiction article
Assessment	Graphic organizer on grade level topic	Comprehension questions at the end of each article

For your convenience, the summer reading lists are posted on the CHK website and they have been sent to the Clark Public Library. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Olivia Miller, our English supervisor, via e-mail at [omiller@clarkschools.org](mailto:omiller@clarkschools.org).

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! Happy Reading!

Yours sincerely,

Edward Grande

**REQUIRED READING FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS:**

<b>Title &amp; Author:</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b>
<i>Linked</i> by Gordon Korman	Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further. The closer our main characters get to the truth, the more there is to face-not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past.

**6th Grade Summer Reading List:**

<b>Title &amp; Author:</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b>	<b>Reading Level:</b>
<i>The Benefits of Being an Octopus</i> by Ann Braden	Seventh grader Zoey learns how to find her voice and to make choices that will change not only her life but the lives of those she cares for most around her as well.	770L
<i>Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year</i> by Nina Hamza	Being the new kid is tough, especially because Ahmed is the only brown-skinned student in a sea of white. But over the course of the school year, Ahmed surprises himself by actually reading the three assigned books for his English class. Even more surprising, he doesn't hate the books. At the same time, Ahmed is learning about the uncle he never knew and investigating his family history offers. Could Ahmed be warming to Minnesota?	740L
<i>11 Before 12</i> by Lisa Greenwald	Kaylan dreads the start of sixth grade and feels like she wants—no, <i>needs</i> —a winning game plan. Luckily, Kaylan has a fool-proof plan for tackling transitions: a list of eleven things she needs to do to totally transform before turning twelve.	590L
<i>Rules</i> by Cynthia Lord	Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a paraplegic boy, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?	670L
<i>Schooled</i> by Gordon Korman	On Cap's first day at public school, Zach Powers, the cool kid and bully, singles him out. The middle school tradition is to make the most unpopular kid class president and spend the school year using his new position to bully him. Zach decides that Cap is the perfect presidential candidate.	740L

**7th Grade Summer Reading List:**

<b>Title &amp; Author:</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b>	<b>Reading Level:</b>
<i>Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II</i> by Joseph Bruchac (Nonfiction)	Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker.	980L
<i>Love Love</i> by Victoria Chang (poetry)	Frances Chin, lives in the suburbs of Detroit with her immigrant parents and older sister. Although she struggles to speak up, Frances's powerful inner voice resonates in gorgeous imagery and evocative free verse.	NP0L
<i>Ghost</i> by Jason Reynolds	Running. That's all that Castle Cranshaw has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?	730L
<i>Life as We Know It</i> by Susan Beth Pfeffer	Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. As summer turns to Arctic winter, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove. Told in journal entries, this is the heart-pounding story of Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all--hope--in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world.	770L
<i>While I Was Away</i> by Waka T. Brown (Nonfiction)	When twelve-year-old Waka's parents suspect she can't understand the basic Japanese they speak to her, they make a drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her strict grandmother. If she's always been the "smart Japanese girl" in America but is now the "dumb foreigner" in Japan, where is home...and who will Waka be when she finds it?	740L

## 8th Grade Summer Reading List:

<b>Title &amp; Author:</b>	<b>Synopsis:</b>	<b>Reading Level:</b>
<i>Solo</i> by Kwame Alexander (poetry)	Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star with delusions of a comeback. In reality, the only thing Blade has in common with Rutherford is the music that lives inside them. But not even the songs that flow through Blade's soul are enough when he's faced with two unimaginable realities both of which could bring Blade the freedom and love he's been searching for, or leave him feeling even more adrift.	640L
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime</i> by Mark Haddon	Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.	1180L
<i>Fashion Conscious: Change the World With a Change of Clothes</i> by Sarah Klymkiw (Nonfiction/partially graphic novel)	It has never been so important to consider the impact our clothing choices have on the planet. Learn how to love your clothes by reusing, swapping and mending what you already have. This practical, positive, and empowering book will open eyes to the impact our clothing choices have on people and the planet and empower children to demand answers to questions and take action.	N/A
<i>Game</i> by Walter Dean Myers	Drew may not be a straight-A student, but he knows he could go pro in basketball if he gets enough attention from college scouts this year. But this was not the season he had planned.	800L
<i>Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie</i> by David Lubar	Starting high school is never easy. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details for his sibling's—and your—enjoyment.	560L