



**Required Summer Reading for Middle School  
Northland Christian School**

**Summer 2026**

As an English Department, we believe that reading is such an important activity to engage in during the summer months for enrichment and educational purposes. We have created reading lists for each middle school grade by selecting novels that we believe will be engaging, entertaining, and enlightening for students.

We ask that each student select **one novel** to read from their upcoming grade level. **We also require students to annotate their novel using the guide.** The summer reading book is for pleasure, but annotations turn books into reading with a purpose and will help students gather information for a project which will be assigned when we return to school in the fall.

**Middle School Annotation Guide**

**Q:** What is annotating a book?

**A:** Annotating a book is making notes by writing in your book while reading. This allows you to interact with the book and form opinions or ask questions as you read. If you do not want to physically mark in your book, post-it notes are a great alternative.

**Annotation Guide:**

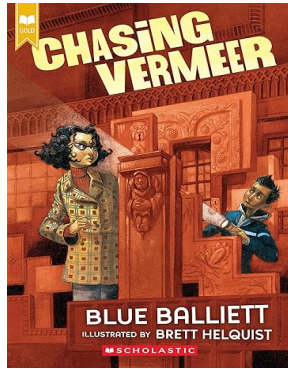
**Using these ideas to annotate as you read will help you with your summer reading project which will be completed in class when you return to school in August.**

- Highlight new characters when they appear and write adjectives to describe them in the margins.
- Highlight and annotate when a setting changes in the book. What do you

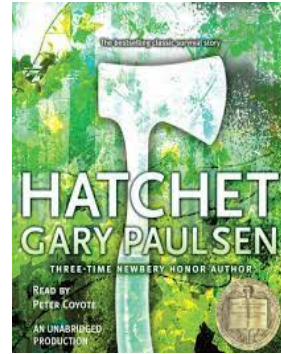
notice about the physical settings in the book?

- Circle words you are unfamiliar with and look them up or use context clues to discover the meaning.
- Mark important quotes that stand out to you or create meaning for the novel.
- Write a summary statement at the end of each chapter.
- Make several annotations per chapter.

**Sixth Grade: For students entering sixth grade, please choose one book from the following list.**



*Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliett

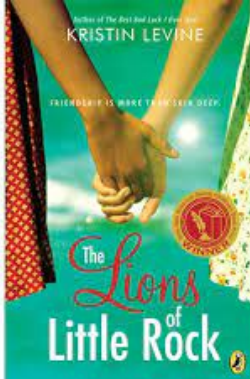


*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen



*Esperanza Rising*  
by Pam Muñoz Ryan

**Seventh Grade: For students entering seventh grade, please choose one book from the following list.**



*The Lions of Little Rock*  
by Kristin Levine



*The Shakespeare Stealer*  
by Gary Blackwood

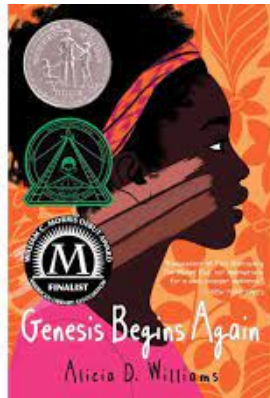


*Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz

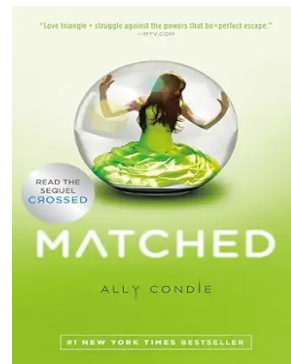


*Summerlost*  
by Ally Condie

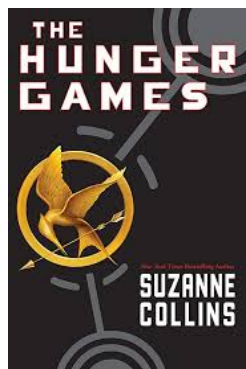
**Eighth Grade: For students entering eighth grade, please choose one book from the following list.**



*Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams



*Matched* by Ally Condie



*The Hunger Games*  
by Suzanne Collins



*Divergent*  
by Veronica Roth