

Rocky Hill Middle School Summer Reading Task Guidance

Key Principles

- Providing students choice increases motivation and engagement.
- Thoughtful reflection on texts deepens student appreciation for reading and helps them make connections to themselves, others, and the world.
- The assignment or task is not about accountability, it is about helping students connect more deeply to what they read.

WHY. The goal of the Summer Reading Task is to help motivate students to continue reading even while school is not in session. Recent studies have projected that students could lose as much as 30% of their literacy gains due to school closures and the normal “summer slide.”

WHO. All students who will be in grades 6-12 next school year are expected to read throughout the summer to build their literacy skills.

MCPS SUMMER READING TASK

WHAT TEXT. Students may read any text they choose including novels, newspapers, magazines, graphic novels, plays, poetry, and blogs. A key to motivating students to read is to allow them choice in the format and content of what they read.

WHAT TASK. After reading, students should write a reflection about the text they have read. A choice board is provided with a variety of reflection prompts. In the fall, teachers will collect the reflections and use them to get to know their students. The Summer Reading Task will not be graded; instead, teachers will use it as a classroom community builder to help students get to know one another.

HOW. Student access to texts may vary due to limited access to school buildings and to public libraries. The MCPS School Library Media Programs (SLMP) team has curated a list of free, online resources where students can access a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. These may be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/MCPSTeenREAD>

Other Student Reading Opportunities:

[The 11th Annual New York Times Summer Reading Contest](#)

- June 12 to August 21, 2020
- See details for [high school free access](#) until July 6

[Common Lit Summer Reading Challenge](#)

- Starts June 1
- Free, high-interest reading lists

[Digital Public Library Card](#)

- Registration to get a library card without having to visit in person

[Montgomery Public Library Summer Reading Program](#)

- Includes raffles, prizes for ages up to 17