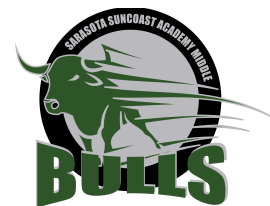


8th Grade Summer Reading Project



This year 8th grade at Suncoast Academy will use some of the titles from SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS AWARD BOOKS 2025-2026 6-8 list for our Summer Reading Project. Because we believe it is important that our students don't fall back on the reading gains they have made over the school year, we encourage parents to support their students by providing reading opportunities throughout the summer break. Although each student will only be assessed on their project for one book, we highly recommend each student choose more books to read before the beginning of the school year.

Below are the titles of books (and a short summary) your student can pick from:



Ride On by Faith Erin Hicks

Victoria has always loved horses. But riding in competitions is high stakes, high stress, and shockingly expensive. And even though Victoria's best friend Taylor loves competing, Victoria has lost her taste for it. After a heartbreaking fight with Taylor, Victoria needs a new start—at a new stables. A place where she doesn't have to worry about anything other than riding. No competition, no drama, no friends. Just horses. Edgewood Stables seems ideal. There are plenty of horses to ride, and Victoria is perfectly happy giving the other riders the cold shoulder. But can she truly be happy with no friends?



Falling Short by Ernesto Cisneros

Isaac and Marco already know sixth grade is going to change their lives. But it won't change things at home—not without each other's help. This year, star basketball player Isaac plans on finally keeping up with his schoolwork. Better grades will surely stop Isaac's parents from arguing all the time. Meanwhile, straight-A Marco vows on finally winning his father's approval by earning a spot on the school's basketball team. But will their friendship and support for each other be enough to keep the two boys from falling short?



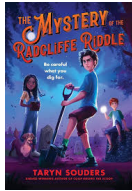
Fake by Ele Fountain

In a digital world it's hard to know what's real. Imagine a world where your only friends are virtual, and big tech companies control access to food, healthcare and leisure. This is Jess's world. But when she turns fourteen, Jess can

go to school with other children for the first time. Most of them hate the ‘real’ world, but Jess begins to question whether the digital world is ‘perfect’ after all. Back home, her sister Chloe’s life-saving medication is getting ever more expensive. Determined to help, Jess risks everything by using skills forbidden in the cyber-world, only to stumble on something explosive. Something that will turn her whole world upside down. It’s up to Jess to figure out exactly what is real, and what is fake – Chloe’s survival depends on it.



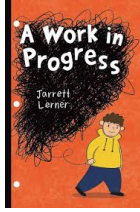
The Girl in White by Lindsay Currie Mallory hasn't quite adapted to life in her new town of Eastport yet. Maybe it's because everyone is obsessed with keeping the town's reputation as the most cursed town in the US. And thanks to the nightmares she's had since arriving, Mallory hardly sleeps. Combined with the unsettling sensation of being watched, she's quickly becoming convinced there's more to her town. Something darker. When Mallory has a terrifying encounter with the same old woman from her dreams, she knows she has to do something—but what? With Eastport gearing up to celebrate the anniversary of their first recorded legend Mallory is forced to investigate the one legend she's always secretly been afraid of - Sweet Molly.



Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle by Taryn Souder When Grady and his dad learn that the town oddball, Eudora "Kooky" Klinch left something for them in her will, they can only imagine what it might be. When it turns out it's an old scrap of 300-year-old tapestry, they are bitterly disappointed. But the cloth comes with a note saying, "This is no ordinary piece of needlework. It's a treasure map. Riddles and Clues. To the victor go the riches." Grady's dad dismisses it, but Grady thinks this could be the chance of a lifetime. With the help of his friends Thad, Clemmie, and the town dog Ophelia, Grady is determined to crack the clues and find the treasure. However, more at risk than he bargained for, and after a house break in, solving this mystery just got a lot more dangerous.



New Dragon City by Mari Mancusi No one predicted the dragon apocalypse. The dragons came suddenly and decimated the world as we knew it, including New York City. Three years later, Noah, his hardcore survivalist father, and a ragtag group of survivors are barely scraping by in this new reality. Noah has seen the damage these creatures can do firsthand. When it comes to dragons: It's kill or be killed. But a chance encounter between Noah and a young dragon forces him to question everything he thought he knew. With rumors spreading that there’s a group of survivors living in harmony with dragons instead of hiding underground, Noah teams up with his fire-breathing ally to find out if peace between humans and dragons is really possible



A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner

Will is the only round kid in a school full of thin ones. So he hides...in baggy jeans and oversized hoodies, in the back row during class, and anywhere but the cafeteria during lunch. He's also got a crush on a girl named Jules who he knows he doesn't have a chance with but he can't help wondering what if? Will's best shot at attracting Jules's attention is by slaying the Will Monster inside him by changing his eating habits and getting more exercise. But the results are either frustratingly slow or infuriatingly unsuccessful. As he resorts to increasingly drastic measures to transform his appearance, Will meets skateboarder Markus, who helps him see his body and all it contains as an ever-evolving work in progress.

Project Assessment

Students **pick one book** from the choices above. After reading the book, students then **pick one of the project choices** below as a way to share their reading experience. Choose a project based upon the student's strengths, interests, and learning preferences. Please include the project number, and name with the final work. If the project requires the student to send a recording, be sure to format it in WMV (Windows Media). Any typewritten work should be done in single-space, Times New Roman font 12.

Make sure to have the project ready for the teacher on the first day of the school year. The teacher will ask all students to turn in their written pieces in or share their recorded files DURING THE FIRST WEEK of school. This project will be the first graded work for the school year, so it is very important it is done well and turned in on-time. The choices below are meant to make this experience a positive one rather than a chore, so help your student pick the one that appeals to him/her the most.

1. Write a letter to a character in the book. (500 words minimum)
2. Write a letter to the author inviting him/her to speak to the class about the book, and explain why you feel the author could contribute to the learning experience of your fellow students. (500 words minimum)
3. Write an obituary, eulogy, or epitaph for one of the characters in your book. (500 words minimum)
4. Pretend you are the author, and explain why you choose the title of your book. (500 words minimum)
5. Create a poster for your book. Be sure to include a written explanation for your design.(1 22"-28" poster board)
6. Describe how a character changed during the book. (500 words minimum)
7. List the protagonist, antagonist, setting, plot, theme, and point of view of the story. Offer explanations for your choices when needed. (500 words minimum)

8. Change one element of the story and explain how the change would affect the story. (500 words minimum)
9. Make a chart showing how two characters are alike and how they are different. (size of a 22"-28" poster board)
10. Write a letter to our principal explaining why every Suncoast Academy student should read your book. (500 words minimum)
11. Describe what you think happened to the main character after the book ended. (500 words minimum)
12. Create a timeline that depicts the major events of the story. (size of a 22"-28" poster board)
13. Make a shoebox diorama of a scene from the book you read. Write a paragraph (100 words) explaining the scene and attach it to the diorama.
14. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation (100 words minimum) of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
15. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found (remember to cite where you found them) or drawn. Include at least 5 explanations on how this brochure relates to the setting and/or the plot of the book.