

## 6th Grade - Summer Reading List

Over the summer, upcoming RCS 6th grade students are required to read **three novels**:

1. **Two novels** are assigned by the teacher. All students are expected to read these two books in full.
2. For the **third novel**, students choose one book from an approved list below provided by the teacher.

Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings **before** the first day of school. Activities and assessments related to the summer reading will take place during the first weeks of the school year.

### Required:

1. [Fallout](#) - Steve Sheinkin

Secrets, spies, and the Cold War collide in this gripping nonfiction thriller. From hidden bunkers to nuclear near-misses, history has never been this intense.

2. [The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street](#) – Karina Yan Glaser

Five siblings. One brownstone. Zero time to stop their landlord from kicking them out before Christmas. Can the Vanderbeekers save their home with heart and hustle?

### Choose ONE of the following:

1. [The Green Ember](#) - S.D. Smith

A kingdom in peril. Swords raised high. Two brave rabbits fight for hope, loyalty, and a legend whispered in the wind: “My place beside you, my blood for yours.”

2. [Father Damien and the Bells](#) – Arthur and Elizabeth Sheehan

With laughter, courage, and faith, Fr. Damien brought hope to an island of forgotten souls. Ring the bells and meet the priest who became a saint through love.

3. [The Adventures of Robin Hood](#) - Roger Lancelyn Green

Steal from the rich, give to the poor—and stand up for justice no matter the cost. Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men outwit corrupt leaders, defend the weak, and risk everything for what’s right. It’s honor, archery, and daring escapes in Sherwood Forest!

4. [Midsummer’s Mayhem](#) - Rajani Larocca

When magic stirs a summer baking contest, Mimi must outwit enchanted chaos, mysterious boys, and her own heart to prove she's more than a middle child.

## 7th Grade - Summer Reading List

Over the summer, upcoming RCS 7th grade students are required to read **three novels**:

1. **Two novels** are assigned by the teacher. All students are expected to read these two books in full.
2. For the **third novel**, students choose one book from an approved list below provided by the teacher.

Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings **before** the first day of school. Activities and assessments related to the summer reading will take place during the first weeks of the school year.

### Required:

1. [\*The Blackbird Girls\*](#) – Anne Blankman

When disaster strikes the Chernobyl power plant, two girls—one Jewish, one the daughter of a Communist—must rely on each other to survive. Can enemies become friends in the ashes of fear?

2. [\*Fault Lines in the Constitution\*](#) – Cynthia Levinson & Sanford Levinson

*Fault Lines in the Constitution* reveals how decisions made in 1787 still shape today's political chaos. With real-life stories and big questions, this book makes civics exciting and helps you see how government really works and where it might need fixing.

### Choose ONE of the following:

1. [\*Funny in Farsi\*](#) – Firoozeh Dumas

A young Iranian girl adjusts to life in America, blending humor and heart in this memoir of culture, family, and finding where you belong.

2. [\*Inquisitor's Tale\*](#) – Adam Gidwitz

Three unlikely friends—a peasant girl with visions, a Muslim boy with healing powers, and a young monk-in-training—set out to save sacred texts and maybe even change history.

3. [\*The Destiny of Sunshine Ranch\*](#) – T. M. Gaouette

When teen foster kid Benedict arrives at Sunshine Ranch, he's sure it's just another stop on a long road of disappointment. But this Catholic family—and their quiet trust in God—start to change everything.

4. [\*Call of the Wild\*](#) – Jack London

Buck is a domesticated dog stolen and sold into the brutal life of an Alaskan sled team. As he faces the wild frontier, he discovers strength, instinct—and a call to something deeper and more primal.

## 8th Grade - Summer Reading List

Over the summer, upcoming RCS 8th grade students are required to read **three novels**:

1. **Two novels** are assigned by the teacher. All students are expected to read these two books in full.
2. For the **third novel**, students choose one book from an approved list below provided by the teacher.

Students are responsible for completing the assigned readings **before** the first day of school. Activities and assessments related to the summer reading will take place during the first weeks of the school year.

### **Required:**

1. [\*\*Prisoners of Geography\*\*](#) - Tim Marshall

*Prisoners of Geography* reveals how mountains, rivers, and borders silently shape world events. From war zones to trade routes, this eye-opening book shows that geography isn't just about maps—it's about power, politics, and survival.

2. [\*\*The Night Diary\*\*](#) – Veera Hiranandani

In 1947 India, Nisha is caught between two worlds during the violent partition between Pakistan and India. In letters to her deceased mother, she searches for identity, home, and peace.

### **Choose one of the following:**

1. [\*\*A Man for All Seasons\*\*](#) – Robert Bolt

What's worth more—your job, your reputation, or your soul? The gripping true story of St. Thomas More, who stood firm in his faith, even when it cost him everything.

2. [\*\*They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky\*\*](#) – Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, and Benjamin Ajak

Told in their own words, three boys from Sudan flee war, walk hundreds of miles, and cling to hope in refugee camps. This is a true story of courage, brotherhood, and the will to live.

3. [\*\*The Elephant in the Room\*\*](#) – Holly Goldberg Sloan

With her mom stuck in Turkey, Sila feels lost—until a rescued elephant, a reclusive millionaire, and an unexpected friend teach her about connection, courage, and the beauty of second chances.

4. [\*\*Pride and Prejudice\*\*](#) - Jane Austen

When fiercely independent Elizabeth Bennet meets the arrogant Mr. Darcy, sparks fly—but not the good kind. In a world obsessed with status and marriage, can love overcome pride and prejudice?

