2026 Camillus Middle School 7th to 8th Grade Summer Reading

Participation is mandatory for every student entering 8th grade. Below is the list of suggested summer reading books from varying literary genres from which your child can select. Many of these books are of high interest at typical reading levels. Other selections may be written at a more challenging reading level or contain more challenging content.

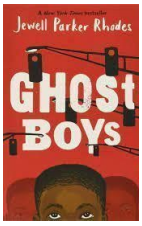
Parental review and assistance is expected to help children find literature that is both content appropriate and meets a comfortable reading level for your child.



The Trouble with Heroes **by Kate Messner** 13-year-old Finn has just finished 7th grade and is struggling with the loss of his heroic firefighter father. Faced with vandalism charges, he is offered an unusual sentence to avoid juvenile detention; he must hike all 46 peaks in the Adirondacks in a single summer alongside a dog named Seymour. As he hikes, he spends time thinking about his actions and learns about kindness, responsibility, and what it really means to be a hero.

Look Both Ways **by Jason Reynolds** Ten Blocks. Ten Stories. One Giant Walk Home. Spanning just 15 chapters, this fast and funny book introduces us to unforgettable characters whose seemingly separate paths cross in unexpected ways. Every day circumstances quickly transform into hum or, secret heartbreaks and deep friendships. You'll never look at a school bus or a simple walk home from school the same way again.





Ghost Boys **by Jewell Parker Rhodes** *Only the living can make the world better* . Jerome Rogers, a 12-year-old black boy living in Chicago, is killed by a white police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, he observes the devastation his death unleashed on his family and community. But when he realizes that Sarah, the daughter of the white police officer who shot him, is the only one who can see him, he's left to wonder, why?

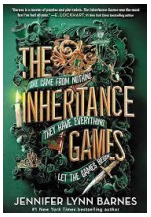
The Odyssey **by Gareth Hines** This action-packed, mythological story is one of the most translated, adapted, and referenced works of Western literature. Gareth Hinds's graphic novel adapts Homer's original epic and puts Odysseus's great journey to the page in timeless watercolor illustrations as he defies gods, monsters, and men to restore his home. It's a powerful, fast-paced tale of survival, loyalty and divine vengeance that you won't be able to put down.

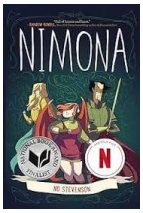




Rebellion 1776 **by Laurie Halse Anderson** In this gripping historical fiction novel, 13 year-old Elsbeth Culpepper must navigate the war-torn city of Boston alone after her father disappears. Amidst a devastating smallpox epidemic, she faces the perils of the American Revolution and the threat of an invisible illness. In a city divided by chaos, Elsbeth courageously struggles for survival while also desperately searching to find her family. This adventure will leave you breathless.

The Inheritance Games **by Jennifer Lynn Barnes** Avery Grambs unexpectedly inherits the vast fortune of billionaire Tobias Hawthorne—a man she has never met. To claim the inheritance, Avery must move into the mysterious Hawthorne House, filled with secret passages and puzzles, while coexisting with the disinherited Hawthorne family. As Avery navigates the mansion's riddles and the family's suspicions, she becomes entangled in a high-stakes game of clues and secrets. Why was she chosen and can she survive the dangerous game?





Nimona **by ND Stevenson** ND Stevenson's National Book Award Finalist graphic novel *Nimona* follows the titular Nimona, a quirky and impulsive young shapeshifter, as she becomes the sidekick to the villainous Lord Ballister Blackheart. This graphic novel is filled with sharply witty and subversive humor, epically-illustrated action, and heartfelt emotional beats.

Name _____ Summer Reading Note Catcher

Directions: As you read the book you selected over the summer, answer the following. If you own the book, feel free to use post-it notes throughout the book to take notes.

1. Book Title: _____

   Author: _____

   Genre: _____(Type of Book) ex. realistic fiction

ed

2. As you read and come across words that you are unfamiliar with or are higher level words, write them in the boxes below. You should have 5 words by the end of the book.

Word	Page	Definition

3. Describe a conflict/problem in the book. How was the conflict resolved?

4. Throughout the book, the author includes memorable lines and also quotes from characters. As you read, write down, at least, 4 quotations in the chart below that you have a reaction to. (Remember, a quote is copied text from the book---it does not have to be something that a character said)

"Quotation" with page number	My Response - your thoughts, comments, ideas, connections, understandings, questions, etc...

5. Describe what you believe to be the theme, or message, for the reader that is shown throughout the book. Make a bulleted list of examples/evidence that will support the theme.

THEME:

Evidence (QUOTES with page numbers):

- ★
- ★
- ★
- ★
- ★