



Public Schools of Edison
Township

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER LITERACY
CHALLENGE 2026

Grades 6-8 (*)



Parents and Students:

The Edison Middle School Summer Literacy Challenge offers students the opportunity to expand their learning through books and a variety of media platforms.

All students in Grades 6-8* are **expected** to read at least **TWO books of their choice**. There will be **NO** assignments or assessments. We want students to read solely for pleasure. When students return to school in September, they will share some of their favorite titles and takeaways with their peers. **(*Students in Grade 8 Accelerated have a different reading assignment- see below.**

We know that students may want or need additional challenges over the summer. Therefore, we have provided several options to explore.

***Please note:** Students in **Grade 8 Accelerated** must read *The Outsiders* and complete a separate assignment from the one listed above (See [Slide 3](#)). However, they *may* also choose to complete the additional challenges.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lisa Dunn, MS English Supervisor, via gmail: lisa.dunn@edison.k12.nj.us

Happy Reading!

[Grade 8 Accelerated Assignment](#) (Click on either link to access the texts, organizer, and assignment)




You are required to read [The Outsiders \(S.E. Hinton\)](#), [“Nothing Gold Can Stay” \(Robert Frost\)](#), and [ONE nonfiction article as your summer reading requirement](#). You are expected to be familiar with the details of all the texts and to *come prepared with your one-pager* and written response on *the first day of instruction*.

Select ONE of the following essential questions to guide your reading of *The Outsiders*, “Nothing Gold Can Stay,” and one of the nonfiction articles.

- What is social justice?
- How do we form our personal identities?
- What do we learn about ourselves through hardship?
- How do our choices impact us and those around us?

Create a one-pager that responds to the selected question and incorporates the required elements. ([See requirements, templates, models, and rubric](#))

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

Summer Literacy Goal for ALL* Students :

Select and read TWO books--your choice!!

Consider...

- A book suggested by a friend
- A book you own but have not read yet
- A book about someone different than you
- A book by a #diversebooks author
- A book genre you typically do not read



***Grade 8 Accelerated students** must read *The Outsiders* and complete the assignment .

Need some book suggestions????

Grade 6 Themes :

- Finding Your Voice
- Using your voice
- Appreciating and Learning from Unique Voices
- Using Your Voice to Explore Your World and

Grade 7 Themes:

- Inventing and Testing Yourself
- Fitting In and Moments of Insight
- Risking It All; Shared Dreams ; and, Multiple Perspectives
- Shared Ideas

Grade 8 Themes :

- Social Justice and Identity
- Identity and Perspective
- Perspective and Individual Responsibility
- Individual Responsibility and Community

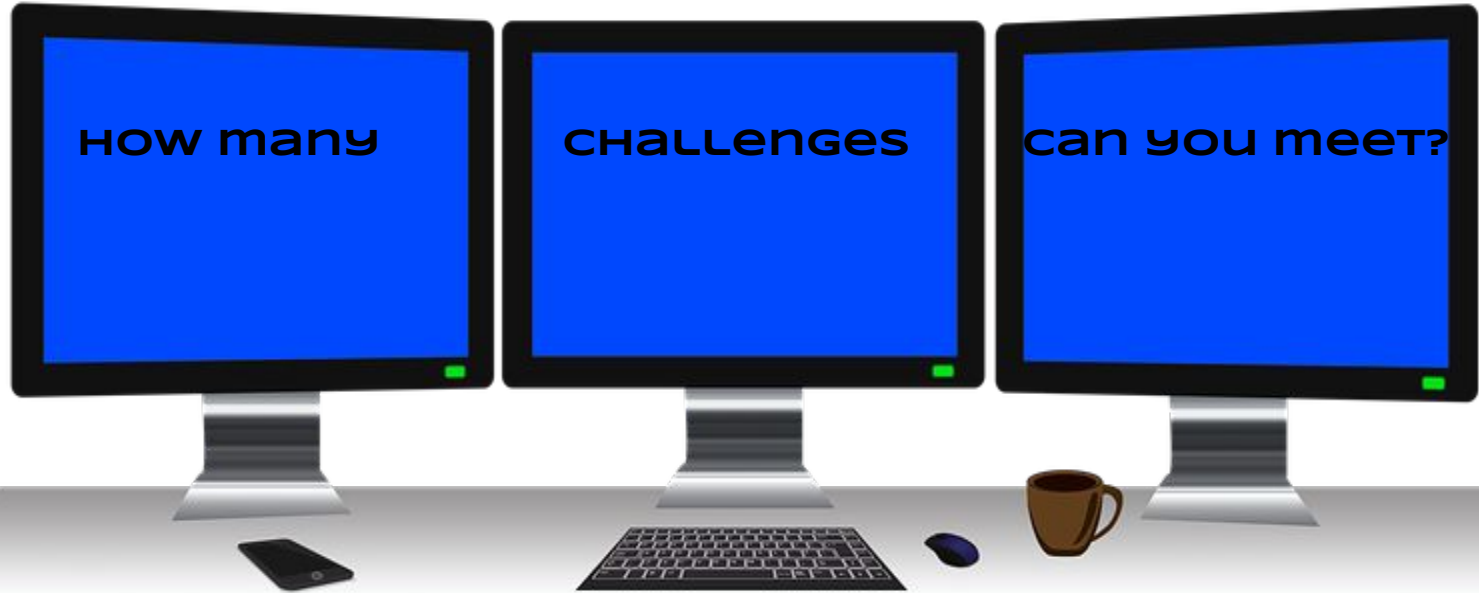
Need additional suggestions? Check out the 2026 [ALSC](#) (Association for Library Service to Children) [summer reading list for Grades 6-8](#)

"THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A KID WHO HATES READING. THERE ARE KIDS WHO LOVE READING, AND KIDS WHO ARE READING THE WRONG BOOKS."
JAMES PATTERSON



Just gotta find what you like :)

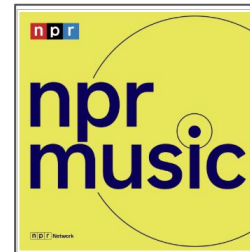
Are you ready to become a LIT NINJA???



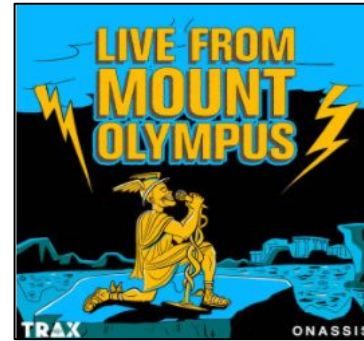
If you have already met the goal of reading TWO books and are ready for additional **LIT**eracy challenges continue to the following slides.

Podcasts

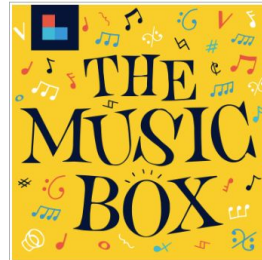
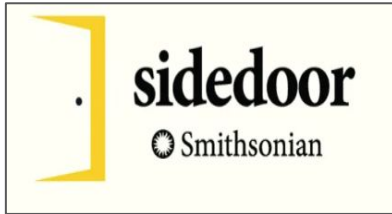
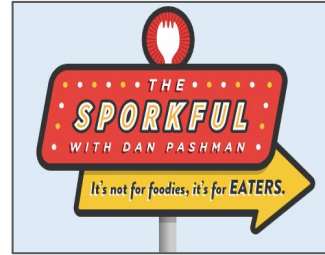
(Can be accessed through student Chromebooks or devices): Listen to at least **60 minutes** of your favorite podcast topics. Challenge yourself to explore unknown topics and learn something new! (Click on the icons below for the links to these sites.)



More PODCASTS...



MORE PODCASTS...





Using Comics Plus



Learning Resources




Comics, Graphic Novels and Manga



[Comic Trailers](#)

TED Talks: Watch 60 minutes of any of the following TED Talks. Challenge yourself by exploring topics that may be unknown to you or help you gain a new perspective.

BEST EDUCATIONAL
Ted Talks

9 TED Talks recommended by students, for students

By Annie Brodsky on March 16, 2017 in TED-Ed Clubs



There are many more TED talks, but these sites will provide a great place to start!

[Great TED Talks](#)
to Use with
Middle Schoolers
and Other Ages,
Too (Pernille
Ripp picks)

**INSPIRING
GROWTH
MINDSET
TED
TALKS
FOR KIDS**

Kidsthinkdesign: A Kid's Design Collaborative Project

This site is dedicated to the inspiration and education of future designers. Activities and resources include access to books on design, a design lab that connects kids with professionals, and a website that showcases kids' original designs and thinking.

kidsthinkdesign a kids design collaborative project store



world of design



fashion design



graphic design



interior design



book design



product design



film+theater



architecture



animation



environment

KIDSTHINKDESIGN: A DESIGN RESOURCE FOR KIDS, PARENTS & TEACHERS

KidsThinkDesign.org is certified by the kidSAFE® seal program. To learn more, go to www.kidsafeseal.com.

In THE NEWS...

Challenge yourself to explore unknown topics on Newsela and learn something new. Sign in through Classlink (directions below).

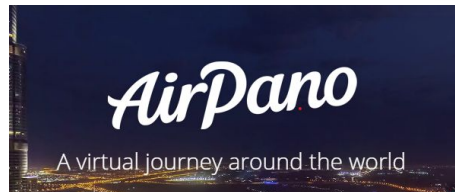
You should see this icon on your [Classlink](#)

- After clicking on the link, **use your Edison username and password** to access the dashboard.
- Click on the icon and begin your exploration.

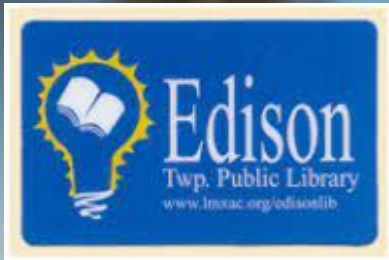
If you have difficulties signing into Newsela, please contact Mrs. Dunn (lisa.dunn@edison.k12.nj.us)



Virtual Field Trips. Travel this year...from your living room or kitchen table! Take a tour of at least four different places. Be an adventurer and explore unknown places and learn something new! (Click on the icons below for the links to these sites.)



Tutorial



[Get a Library Card](#)

[Hoopla Ebooks](#)

[New to hoopla: Young Adult](#)

[Audiobook Collections](#)

[Teens](#)

[Kids](#)

[Online Learning](#)

[Learn a Language](#)



Ebooks/Audiobooks Available from your School Library

Username = ID #
Password = school device password

HIGH SCHOOLS

[Edison High School](#) - [Doreen Stocker](#)

[JP Stevens High School](#) - [Shari Stein](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

[Herbert Hoover Middle School](#) - [Christine McAvoy](#)

[Thomas Jefferson Middle School](#) - [Jessica Volk](#)

[Woodrow Wilson Middle School](#) - [Tamara Richman](#)



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[Scholastic MS Book lists](#)

[Book Bundle Request Form](#)