

2025 Aqsa Summer Recommended Reading List

Directions: You must choose from the list for your grade. Please do not read books that are for other grades. **If you choose a book not on this list, it must be Islamically appropriate, and you must get your parent's approval by submitting the signed slip at the bottom of this page.** Books with the * are recommended for readers who enjoy a challenge because they often appear on recommended reading lists for Honors or AP courses.

Going into 6th should read...

1. *Ungifted* by Gordon Korman
2. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan *
3. *Rules* by Cynthia Lord

Going into 7th should read...

1. *My Louisiana Sky* by Kimberly Willis Holt
2. *Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
3. *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett *

Going into 8th should read...

1. *Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year* by Nina Hamza
2. *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech
3. *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll*

Going into 9th should read...

1. *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton (author of *The Outsiders*)
2. *Ghost of Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson (author of *Touching Spirit Bear*)
3. *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens*

Going into 10th should read...

1. *Ask Me No Questions* by Marina Budhos
2. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen*
3. *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (author of *The Giver*)

Going into 11th should read...

1. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee*
2. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom
3. *Girl in a Cage* by Jane Yolen

Going into 12th should read...

1. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury*
2. *Black Boy* by Richard Wright*
3. *Other Side of the Sky* by Farah Ahmedi

In addition, 11th/12th graders taking AP Literature must read *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. You must keep a quotation journal as you read. Jot down quotes as you read and reflect about each quote. Your journal should have at least 12 quotations taken from the beginning, middle, and ending of the book. Include page numbers for each quote. Choose quotes that you think are important to understanding the characters/themes of the novel.. You will need to bring this journal to class for our socratic discussion the first week of school. The first in-class essay of the year will be based on this book.



Parent signed permission slip is required if you are not choosing from your grade's list:

I give my permission for my daughter (student's name) _____ in grade _____
to read (book's title)* _____ by (author) _____

Even though this book isn't on the above list, I believe it is Islamically appropriate for my child to read and complete their summer reading responses about this novel.

Parent's signature: _____ Date _____

Parent cell phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

2025 Summer Reading Video Directions:

Follow these guidelines as you complete your summer reading for Aqsa School:

- Select a book from the recommended reading list or get your parents' approval to read a book that isn't on the list.
- Jot down notes on paper or on sticky notes as you read your book.
- Make a copy of this [Summer Reading Template Google Slideshow](#) and switch out my example videos with your own. If you don't know how to embed a video on a Google slide then watch this [short tutorial tech video](#) for help. Keep each video response short like around 30-60 seconds.
- Share your slideshow with your teacher the first week of school when we return from summer vacation.
- In your video book report please include the following:

1) **HONESTY** statement: State your name, the title, and author of your book. Hold the book up to the camera and state that, yes, you finished reading the entire book. If you honestly did not finish it, please explain how far you did get in the reading and why you didn't finish. Try your best to read every page because you may only receive partial credit for this project depending your honesty statement. Watching the movie is not the same thing and it doesn't count as a reading substitute!

2) **CONFLICT EXPLANATION:** What is the main conflict in the book that created a domino effect and caused other problems between characters? (NO SPOILERS! You don't need to say how this conflict was resolved because you shouldn't give away how the book ends in case your peers see this video and want to read this book next quarter.)

3) **TAKEAWAY THEME:** What was your takeaway or lesson that you learned from reading this book?

4) **BOOK TO BOOK CONNECTION:** Choose another book that you've read in the past and connect it to this book. Explain the connection.

5) **RECOMMENDATION** statement: Do you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

Deadline: Submit your video before Labor Day! After you've finished your book report slideshow, you will share it to your teacher in their Google Classroom the first week of school. She will give you more instructions about this when you come back from break. Happy summer reading!!!

If you are an AP Literature student, be sure to read the required book *Jane Eyre* and keep a quotation journal. You do not need to complete a video about your AP Lit book.

If you have any questions email Mrs. Hartin at shartin@aqsa.edu