"Research has demonstrated that choice makes a very important contribution to achievement."

Students who participate in free-reading outside of school have been found to show improvement in vocabulary, reading comprehension, fluency, and the understanding of information. These students often become better readers, score higher on tests in all subject areas, and have a greater wealth of content knowledge.

Independent reading during the summer months can also help students maintain and strengthen literacy skills they learned during the previous school year. However, research has shown that students read more when they can choose their own books. Reading should be exciting and not thought of as a chore.

Rather than follow a list of “required reading,” the links and books below offer book choices Walton students hopefully won’t be able to put down in order to keep them engaged in summer reading!

**Links to Book Lists**

Goodreads Middle School List: [https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/middle-school](https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/middle-school)


Young Adult Library Services Association: [http://www.ala.org/yalsa/](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/)


Walton Student Favorite “Picks”

*Force Out* and *The Big Time* by Tim Green (Realistic, Sports)

*The Marvels* by Brian Selznick (Graphic Novel, Adventure)

*Cinder* and the rest of the Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer (YA, SciFi)

*I am Number Four* and the rest of the Lorian Legacies by Pittacus Lore (SciFi)

*The Selection* and the rest of The Selection Series by Kiera Cass (YA, Romance, Fantasy)

*The Stonekeeper* by Kazu Kibuishi and the rest of the Amulet Series (Graphic Novel)

*Cardboard* by Doug Ten Napel (Graphic Novel)

*Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale (Adventure)

*Breakaway: Beyond the Goal* by Alex Morgan (Sports, Biography)

*Out of my Mind* by Sharon Draper (Interpersonal Relations, Disabilities)

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (Realistic)

Various Books by Wendy Mass (Friendship, Romance)

*The Crossover* and *Booked* by Kwame Alexander (Sports, Free Verse)

*A Night Divided* by Jennifer A. Nielsen (Historical Fiction)

*I Funny, Middle School Get Me out of Here, Middle School Big Fat Liar* and others by James Patterson (Humor)

*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World* (Young Readers Edition)

  by Malala Yousafzai (Biography)

Surviving Southside series (Young Adult, Realistic)

*Ida B.* by Katherine Hannigan (Coming of Age, Realistic Fiction)

*The Paris Mysteries* and other Confessions books by James Patterson (Mystery)

*The Warrior’s Heart* by Navy Seal Eric Greitens (YA, Memoir, Coming of Age)

Vietnam and World War II series books by Chris Lynch (War, Historical Fiction)

*Fast Break* by Gordon Korman (Sports, Realistic Fiction)

*Backlash* by Sarah Darrer Littman (Realistic Fiction)

*Restart* by Gordon Korman

*Suspect Red* by L. M. Elliott

“The best part about summer reading is that it gives kids the opportunity to build up positive experiences—reading doesn’t always need to feel like work.”