

Summer Reading Requirements 2023 Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students



Dear Parents and Middle School Students:

With the summer fast approaching, it is time to consider how to keep reading and writing a part of every child's regular routine. It is important for your child to do some academic work over the summer so that he or she does not lose progress made this year. Please review the list of books on this document and help your child choose one of these science fiction/fantasy books in his or her Lexile range. (You can get an idea of your child's Lexile level by looking at his or her reading MAP data from the fall and spring scores. It is listed there.)

Students need to have the book entirely read before the first day of school, and they need to have the **pennant project complete by the first Monday, August 21st.**

The summer reading project requirements will be posted in Google Classroom at the end of the year. There will be a classroom set up called 2023 Summer Reading. *If you don't have a printer at home and need us to provide you with a paper copy, please have your child ask their reading or English teacher for a copy before the end of the school year. The summer reading project will serve as the first grade of the year for English classes.*

We hope you have a great summer and happy reading!

Noble Academy Middle School Reading Teachers

Choices for Summer Reading for Middle School (in order of Lexile level):

Parents: Do not feel like you have to stick within your child's Lexile range if there is a book on here that they would really like to read. Lexile is just a good indication of what they can read independently without support.

Lexile Level 300 - 500

Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke, Lexile 310, 192 pages (graphic novel)

When her best friend gets abducted by an evil alien cult, Zita's life takes a turn for the cosmic and she finds herself on a strange planet inhabited by humanoid chickens and neurotic robots. Zita's determination to find her way back home to earth has her assuming the role of intergalactic hero in this delightful, action-packed science fiction series, Zita and the Spacegirl, perfect for middle grade readers.

Dragon Slayer's Academy: The New Kid at School by Kate McMullan, Lexile 500, 112 pages

When a traveling minstrel foretells that he is to become a hero, Wiglaf sets out to fulfill his destiny: he signs up at the Dragon Slayers' Academy. But how can he ever hope to be a dragon slayer when he can't even stand the sight of blood?

Upside-Down Magic by Sara Mlynowski, Lexile 500, 208 pages

Nory, Elliott, Andres, and Bax are just four of the students in Dunwiddle Magic School's Upside-Down Magic class. In their classroom, lessons are unconventional, students are unpredictable, and magic has a tendency to turn wonky at the worst possible moments. Because it's always amazing, the trouble a little wonky magic can cause . . .

The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm, Lexile 550, 240 pages

Galileo. Newton. Salk. Oppenheimer. Science can change the world . . . but can it go too far? Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this gawky teenager really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

Lexile Level 600 - 800

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer, Lexile 600, 277 pages

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius, and above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories—they're dangerous! Full of unexpected twists and turns, Artemis Fowl is a riveting, magical adventure.

The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier, Lexile 650, 240 pages

Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hordes of Zombies and Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and especially not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as Blarg. So Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and the fiercest girl Jack knows, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer! Can he do it?

The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole by Michelle Cuevas, Lexile 710, 224 pages

A girl's friendship with a lonely black hole leads her to face her own sadness in this original, funny, and touching middle grade novel for fans of Crenshaw and Flora & Ulysses. When eleven-year-old Stella Rodriguez shows up at NASA to request that her recording be included in Carl Sagan's Golden Record, something unexpected happens: A black hole follows her home, and sets out to live in her house as a pet. The black hole swallows everything he touches, which is challenging to say the least—but also turns out to be a convenient way to get rid of those items that Stella doesn't want around. Soon the ugly sweaters her aunt has made for her all disappear within the black hole, as does the smelly class hamster she's taking care of, and most important, all the reminders of her dead father that are just too painful to have around.

We're Not From Here by Geoff Rodkey, Lexile 740, 256 pages

We're Not From Here is narrated by Lan Mifune, a human child who had to flee Earth with their family when radiation destroyed the planet. At the story's outset, Lan and the remaining humans have lived on Mars for about a year while scientists and government officials hunt for a planet capable of sustaining human life. They find one called Choom, which is home to four intelligent species; the most prominent are called the Zhuri and resemble giant mosquitos. After eight months of negotiations, the people of Choom agree to let the human settle there. It will take 20 years to reach Choom. Those making the trip are put into bio-suspension, but when they wake after the long journey, the Zhuri have changed their minds about letting the humans stay.

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown, Lexile 740, 320 pages

Wall-E meets Hatchet in this New York Times bestselling illustrated middle grade novel from Caldecott Honor winner Peter Brown. Can a robot survive in the wilderness?

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee, Lexile 780, 320 pages

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents Yoon Ha Lee's space opera about thirteen-year-old Min, who comes from a long line of fox spirits. But you'd never know it by looking at her. To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Min feels hemmed in by the household rules and resents the endless chores, the cousins who crowd her, and the aunties who judge her. She would like nothing more than to escape Jinju, her neglected, dust-ridden, and impoverished planet. She's counting the days until she

can follow her older brother, Jun, into the Space Forces and see more of the Thousand Worlds.

A Problematic Paradox by Eliot Sappingfield, Lexile 850, 352 pages

"It's like Harry Potter, but with science instead of magic. Nikola is exactly the smart female protagonist that the sci-fi genre needs." --HelloGiggles Nikola Kross has given up on living in harmony with classmates and exasperated teachers: she prefers dabbling in experimental chemistry to fitting in. But when her life is axially inverted by a gang of extraterrestrials who kidnap her dad and attempt to recruit her into their service, she discovers he's been keeping a world of secrets from her--including the school for geniuses where she's sent for refuge, a place where classes like Practical Quantum Mechanics are the norm and where students use wormholes to commute to class. For Nikola, the hard part isn't school, it's making friends, especially when the student body isn't (entirely) human. But the most puzzling paradox of all is Nikola herself, who has certain abilities that no one understands--abilities that put her whole school in greater danger than she could have imagined.

Weird Kid by Greg Van Eekhout, Grade Level 3-7, 224 pages

From the author of Cog and Voyage of the Dogs, Weird Kid is a hilarious and heartfelt homage to everyone who feels like they don't belong. Perfect for fans of Gordon Korman and Stuart Gibbs. Jake Wind is trying to stay under the radar. Whose radar? Anyone who might be too interested in the fact that he has shapeshifting abilities he can't control. Or that his parents found him as a ball of goo when he was a baby. Keeping his powers in check is crucial, though, if he wants to live a normal life and go to middle school instead of being homeschooled (and if he wants to avoid being kidnapped and experimented on, of course). *** Summer Reading class selection

Lexile level 900 - 1200

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper, Lexile 920, 320 pages

On the Midwinter Day that is his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers a special gift -- that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world from domination by the forces of evil, the Dark. At once, he is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light. And for the twelve days of Christmas, while the Dark is rising, life for Will is full of wonder, terror, and delight.

Newt's Emerald by Garth Nix, Lexile 980, 295 pages

Inspired by the works of Georgette Heyer and Jane Austen, Garth Nix's Newt's Emerald is a Regency romance with a fantasy twist. New York Times bestselling author Gail Carriger calls it "charming; quite, quite charming." After Lady Truthful's magical Newington Emerald is stolen from her she devises a simple plan: go to London to recover the missing jewel. She quickly learns, however, that a woman cannot wander the city streets alone without damaging her reputation, and she disguises herself as a mustache-wearing man. During Truthful's dangerous journey she discovers a crook, an unsuspecting ally, and an evil sorceress—but will she find the Emerald?

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien, Lexile 1000, 300 pages

"In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit." So begins one of the most beloved and delightful tales in the English language—Tolkien's prelude to The Lord of the Rings. Set in the imaginary world of Middle-earth, at once a classic myth and a modern fairy tale, The Hobbit is one of literature's most enduring and well-loved novels.

My Diary From the Edge of the World by Jodi Lynn Anderson, Lexile 1020, 448 pages
Spirited, restless Gracie Lockwood has lived in Cliffden, Maine, her whole life. To Gracie it's all pretty ho-hum...until a Cloud comes looking for her little brother Sam, turning her small-town life upside down. Determined to protect Sam against all odds, her parents pack the family into a used Winnebago and set out on an epic search for a safe place that most people say doesn't exist: The Extraordinary World. It's rumored to lie at the ends of the earth, and no one has ever made it there and lived to tell the tale. To reach it, the Lockwoods will have to learn to believe in each other—and to trust that the world holds more possibilities than they've ever imagined.

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. LeGuin, Lexile 1150, 264 pages
Ged was the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, but in his youth he was the reckless Sparrowhawk. In his hunger for power and knowledge, he tampered with long-held secrets and released a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tumultuous tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

Note: If your student wishes to read a book that is not on this list, but it fits within the sci fi/fantasy genre, they need to get that book approved by their current reading or English teacher.

Summer Reading Selection

Your student's Lexile is listed below. Based on that level, please review the above book suggestions within that range. If your child chooses a different book not listed, please let a teacher know. You will need to make arrangements to check your chosen book out from the library or purchase a copy.

Student Name:

Current Reading Teacher:

Lexile Range: _____

Book Choice: _____

(If you are participating in the summer reading class in July then the required book will already be listed on the line above)

Stay sharp this summer on IXL!



We've used IXL to reinforce our curriculum this year, and your child will continue to have access to the online program over the summer. With thousands of interactive skills, IXL is a fun way for your child to keep their learning fresh.



DID YOU KNOW?

Studies have found that students lose one to two months of math and reading skills over the summer. Use IXL to encourage your child to continue learning!

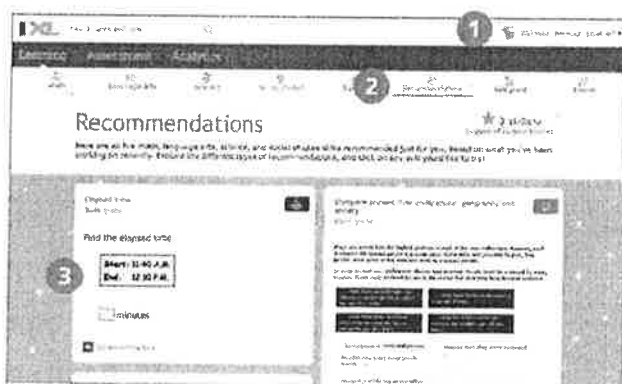
HOW DO I FIND SKILLS TO WORK ON?

1. Sign in to your child's account at www.ixl.com.

Username:

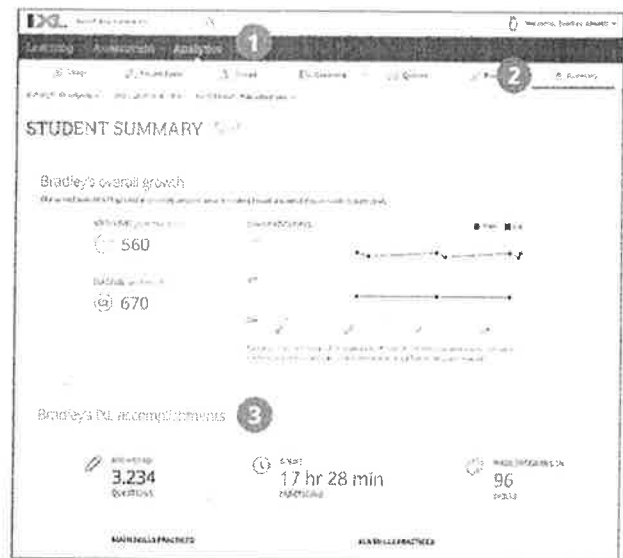
Password:

2. You'll be taken to their **Recommendations Wall!** These skills are personalized based on your child's practice history and current needs.
3. Have your child explore these recommendations and choose skills that are interesting to them.
4. Keep coming back to see new suggestions throughout the summer!



HOW DO I CHECK MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?

1. Sign in to your child's account and select the "Analytics" tab.
2. Select "Summary".
3. Review the list of accomplishments and skills to work on.
4. Encourage your child to keep learning!



- * 5. Your child can also practice the problems in their MAP Skill Plan.

IXL MOBILE APPS

Going on a trip this summer? Take IXL along with our iPhone, iPad, Android, and Kindle apps!



Want more ideas for summer practice? Visit: www.ixl.com/summer.

