

Northridge Summer 2026 Reading Program

Middle School

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

– Joseph Addison

Readings

Incoming 6th graders

6th grade students must read [*Ranger's Apprentice*](#), and one *additional* book from the list below.

- [*Where the Red Fern Grows*](#) by Wilson Rawls, ISBN: 978-0440412670
- [*The Horse and His Boy*](#) by C.S. Lewis, ISBN: 978-0060234881
- [*I am David*](#) by Anne Holm, ISBN: 978-0152051600
- [*Shane*](#) by Jack Schaefer, ISBN: 978-0544239470
- [*My Side of the Mountain*](#) by Jean Craighead George, ISBN: 978-0141312422

7th and 8th Grade students must pick and read two books from the lists below.

Incoming 7th graders:

- [*Captains Courageous*](#) by Rudyard Kipling, ISBN: 1952433401
- [*True Grit*](#) by Charles Portis, ISBN: 159020459X
- [*Mr. Midshipman Hornblower \(Hornblower Saga\)*](#) by C. S. Forester, ISBN: 978-0316289122
- [*Summer of the Monkeys*](#) by Wilson Rawls, ISBN: 0440415802

Incoming 8th graders

- [*The Prince and the Pauper*](#) by Mark Twain, ISBN: 978-0451528353
- [*Around the World in 80 Days*](#) by Jules Verne, ISBN: 978-1949460858
- [*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*](#) by Jules Verne, ISBN: 978-1950435067
- [*Men of Iron*](#) by Howard Pyle, ISBN: 978-0486428413
- [*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*](#) by Howard Pyle, ISBN: 978-0486220437

Assignment

Students will be quizzed on the characters and plot of both books in the first week of school. There will also be an in-class essay assignment in the first week and classroom discussions to assess the students' understanding of the overarching themes.