

# English 8 / English 8 Honors

## Summer Reading 2026

Dear Eighth Grader,

**Hooray! Summer has almost arrived!** We hope you will use this time to savor the blessings of your young life—grow in your faith in God, serve others, invest in family and friends, create memories, travel, try something new—however; as a rising eighth grader, it is also essential to keep your thinking and creative juices flowing over these next months. To that effect, we present to you: your summer reading assignments!

The theme for English 8 is **Finding TRUTH**. Your summer reading is selected with this theme in mind. Your assigned text is S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*—a ground-breaking young adult novel which captures on the timeless struggles of growing up and learning to **STAY TRUE** in a world where there will always be an “in-group” and an “out-group.” Additionally, your choice book will challenge and deepen your faith as you live vicariously through the experiences of a believer who has learned to stand firm on the **INERRANT, TRUE Word of God** and lives out their faith in radical, inspiring ways.

We hope you will be blessed by your reading this summer, and we look forward to seeing you in August!

Warm regards,

Your Middle School English Teachers

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### YOUR TASKS:

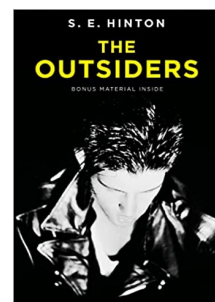
1. Read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton (hard copy required—no audiobooks)

(ISBN-13: 978-0142407332, Viking Books for Young Readers)

It is recommended that you annotate your book for moments where you see Ponyboy struggling with who he is and where he belongs (internal conflict) and moments where you see him reflecting on his divided society (Socs versus Greasers).

Be prepared to **discuss and be TESTED** over the book the first few days of school.

2. Read a non-fiction book of your choice from the list of titles (below). This book should be one that most captures your interest. Make sure your parent agrees with your selection as well.
  - The Heavenly Man* by Brother Yun
  - Devil at My Heels* by Louie Zamperini
  - In the Presence of My Enemies* by Gracia Burnham
  - SEAL of God* by Chad Williams
  - Kisses from Katie* by Katie Davis
3. Discuss the reading with a parent or guardian, using questions provided on the “Parental Acknowledgment Form” (on page 2 of this document). **PRINT the Acknowledgment Form—due on the FIRST day of school (test grade).**



# PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

## Summer Reading 2026

**Directions:** After you have read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and one of the non-fiction reading options from the list provided, discuss the reading with your parent or guardian using the questions below as a guide. Print, sign, and date this document. *This is worth a TEST GRADE and will be collected on the FIRST DAY of school.*

1. Describe Ponyboy and explain what aspects of his character make him an outsider, (even amongst his fellow greasers).
  2. What major challenges/conflicts does Ponyboy face? How do these experiences challenge and grow Ponyboy's understanding of his world.
  3. What did YOU learn from reading your non-fiction reading book? What are your take-aways?
- .....

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, in their entirety, *The Outsiders* and one of the non-fiction choice book options. I have discussed the two books with my parent or guardian using the questions above as a guide.

I am prepared to bring the two books to class on the first day of school, in addition to this printed and signed form.

I understand that I am responsible for the content of each book and am prepared to participate in discussions, complete in-class assignments, and take assessments on the two books.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date