

High School Summer Reading Quick Start Facts:

Goal: Try to read at least three books over the summer and post your thoughts on the book in Flipgrid.

Where: <https://flipgrid.com/06d3fa5a> Flipgrid is a website and app that allows students to upload short videos to the summer reading grid for credit. Your video must have your name, the name of the book, your description of the story (not the one on the back of the book please) and whether or not you liked it!

How: You can download the app to your smartphone by searching 'flipgrid' in either Google Play or in the App Store. Just download and follow the prompts to set up your profile. Use your school email address. **When it asks for a code, enter: 06d3fa5a** . Or you can record directly from the website on any computer with a webcam and microphone.

Flipgrid will automatically show the first category. To move between the 9 categories click on the down arrow on the right-hand side of the category title then choose the category you want to see.

That's it! Pick books that are interesting to you and that fit into the Flipgrid categories. If you need help finding titles drop me an email at lydiad@staff.cottageschool.org.

So wait! I don't have to fill out paperwork to turn in next year? That's absolutely correct! Everything is posted to <https://flipgrid.com/06d3fa5a> throughout the summer as soon as you finish the book!

But what if I'd really rather write something than do a video? Sure, that seems like it would take more time, but if you would prefer to write out the same information, that's fine. Email it to lydiad@staff.cottageschool.org

All the Facts

Students who read independently over the summer tend to readjust faster to school in the fall. They tend to have higher grades and an easier time completing assigned work. By engaging in summer reading, they work on their reading fluency and can pursue interests that they may not have time for during the academic year. We at the Cottage School want to invite the students to have that kind of positive experience and use the summer reading challenge to it.

Each student should aim to **read three books minimum** over the summer; however, even one book is a success. For the books to 'count', they must be completed between May 1st and August 30th, and the student needs to **upload a video** where you talk about the book you read. A staff member will review the videos before they are viewable to the community.

There is no specific list of required titles: students should find books that they are interested in; however, if you need guidance, please email Lydia at lydiad@cottageschool.org. I can work with any student to find titles that sound interesting to them at an appropriate reading level. Also as the summer goes on, the posted videos on flipgrid of student successes will provide another list of possible titles.

We want this to be an enjoyable, positive experience. Independent reading should be fun! If the book stops being enjoyable, we encourage that the student put it aside and pick another title. At the end of the summer prizes and rewards will be awarded for student successes.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who do I talk to if I have difficulty with the site?

Email Lydia Dene at lydiad@staff.cottageschool.org Be sure to include your difficulty so that I can help you more quickly.

What should be in my video?

Center the camera on either your face or the cover of your book. Then include the following when you are talking:

1. Your name
2. The title and author of your book
3. A short overview of the story (try to avoid spoilers - think of it being like an advertisement)
4. Did you like it? Why or why not? (It's ok to say you didn't like a book but be specific about why and try to be objective about it.)

Do audiobooks and e-books count?

Yes, absolutely. In fact, if you were a student here last year, you may already have access to LearningAlly which has a massive collection of audio texts. If not, you still can get access to free audio and e-texts through your local public library, contact your local branch for more information.

Can I read all three books in the same category?

In terms of competing in the challenge, no. The idea is to read a variety of different books; however, in terms of getting the benefits for summer reading and completing the requirement – yes.

Can I read more than three books?

Yes, of course! Read as many books as you like! If you manage to read one in each category, there will be a prize.

What if one book is a lot for me?

Then read that one book! Most of the student body can manage three books if they are picking books at a comfortable reading level. Remember that audiobooks are totally acceptable. However, the point of summer reading is to hold on to your skills over the long break, so even one book will help with that.

What if I don't want people to see my video?

That's fine. Just say so during your video, and the staff will keep it from posting to the site. If you forget to say so in the video, just email Lydia at lydiad@staff.cottageschool.org and I will take care of it. It will still count for your summer reading total.

Do I really have to do this? Your English teachers are expecting you to.