

8th Grade Reading List for Summer 2014

All students are encouraged to read throughout the summer. Please keep a log of all that you read! You can download the 8th *Grade Summer Reading Log* from the library website, or create a journal of your own. **Students entering 8th grade are to read at least three books:**

1. Please read the following book for English:

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

2. Choose 2 more books to read: at least one should be from the following list:

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*. - Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Allen, Thomas B. *Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War*. - Examines how Abraham Lincoln's interest in technology played a role in the outcome of the Civil War; and explains how the telegraph, railroads, surveillance balloons, and other inventions helped the North win the war and rebuild the economy.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. - After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. Or, ***Speak*.** - A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Billingsley, Franny. *Chime*. - In the early twentieth century in Swampsea, seventeen-year-old Briony, who can see the spirits that haunt the marshes around their town, feels responsible for her twin sister's horrible injury until a young man enters their lives and exposes secrets that even Briony does not know about.

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. - Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Brody, David Eliot and Arnold R. Brody. *The Science Class You Wish You Had: the Seven Greatest Scientific Discoveries in History and the People Who Made Them*. - This book takes you on a journey through space and time – from the subatomic to the universal – and explains, in a lively, accessible way, what these milestones of scientific discovery mean.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Code Talker*. After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Campbell-Bartoletti, Susan. *The Boy Who Dared*. - In October, 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. - Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*. – Lush descriptions of the rolling Nebraska grasslands interweave with the blossoming of a woman in the early days of the twentieth century, in an epic novel that chronicles America's past.

Deuker, Carl. *Night Hoop*. - While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo*. - Edmond Dantes, a young sailor who is falsely imprisoned, escapes, and assumes a new identity on the island of Monte Cristo.

Fleischman, Paul. *Bull Run*. - Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.

Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl*. - A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*. - Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*. - While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.

Heiligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma*. - Charles Darwin and his wife, Emma, were deeply in love and very supportive of each other, but their opinions often clashed. Emma was extremely religious, and Charles questioned God's very existence.

Hesse, Karen. *Witness*. - A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

Hickam, Homer H. *Rocket Boys: a Memoir*. - Homer Hickam, a NASA engineer, recounts his childhood in Coalwood, a West Virginia mining town, and discusses his dreams of launching rockets into outer space, and how he made those dreams come true.

Hobbs, Will. *Wild Man Island*. - After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska.

Hoose, Philip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*. – The story of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white

woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and her role in a crucial civil rights case. 2010 Newbery Honor.

Lloyd, Saci. *The Carbon Diaries: 2015*. – In 2015, when England becomes the first nation to introduce carbon dioxide rationing in a drastic bid to combat climate change, sixteen-year-old Laura documents the first year of rationing as her family spirals out of control.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Touching Spirit Bear*. - After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

Murphy, Jim. *Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting*. - Tells the story of the December 25, 1914, truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man's Land to celebrate Christmas.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*. - While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Oppel, Kenneth Any of the series

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew it*. - Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Pratchett, Terry. *Nation*. - A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. – In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor island community founded by slaves that the town fathers want to change into a tourist spot.

Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. - The American classic about a young girl's coming of age at the turn of the century. (one of Mrs. Reader's favorite books)

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*. - Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece.

Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*. - Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. - The adventures of a mischievous young boy and his friends growing up in a Mississippi River town in the nineteenth century.

Whelan, Gloria. *Chu Ju's House*. – In order to save her baby sister, fourteen-year-old Chu Ju leaves her rural home in modern China and earns food and shelter by working on a sampan, tending silk worms, and planting rice seedlings, while wondering if she will ever see her family again.