

8th Grade Reading List for Summer 2015

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, or Forge or Speak*. - 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.

Barry, Dave. *The Worst Class Trip Ever*. In this hilarious novel, written in the voice of eighth-grader Wyatt Palmer, Dave Barry takes us on a class trip to Washington, DC. Wyatt, his best friend, Matt, and a few kids from Culver Middle School find themselves in a heap of trouble-not just with their teachers, who have long lost patience with them-but from several mysterious men they first meet on their flight to the nation's capital. In a fast-paced adventure with the monuments as a backdrop, the kids try to stay out of danger and out of the doghouse while trying to save the president from attack-or maybe not.

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.

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.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*.or any of the series - 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.

Cumming, Priscilla. *Red Kayak*. Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

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.

Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place—he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the antiquated customs of his guardians' time. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? And then there are beings such as ghouls that aren't really one thing or the other. (Newbery award winner.)

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.

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.

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.
Jacobson, Jennifer. *Small as an Elephant*.

Kelly, Erin. *Blackbird Fly*. Future rock star, or friendless misfit? Apple moved from the Philippines to Louisiana, and she grapples with being different, with friends and backstabbers, and with following her dreams. Her mother still cooks Filipino foods, speaks mixed English, and chastises Apple for becoming "too American." It becomes unbearable in middle school, when the boys—the stupid, stupid boys—in Apple's class put her name on the Dog Log, the list of the most unpopular girls in school. When Apple's friends turn on her and everything about her life starts to seem weird and embarrassing, Apple turns to music

Levine, Kristin. *The Lions of Little Rock*. As twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, it feels like her whole world is falling apart. Until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is everything Marlee wishes she could be:

she's brave, brash and always knows the right thing to say. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families.

Lowry, Lois. *Gathering Blue ANY OF SERIES*.** - Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

Peters, Marilee. *Patient zero : solving the mysteries of deadly epidemics*. Engrossing true stories of the pioneers of epidemiology who risked their lives to find the source of deadly diseases. Throughout history, more people have died in disease epidemics than in wars or other disasters. The courageous, trail-blazing defenders against these diseases faced a terrifying personal gamble. Often they were ignored, laughed at, or even fired from their jobs. But they kept hunting for answers, putting the pieces of the epidemic puzzle together.

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.

Volponi, Paul. *The Final Four*. March Madness is in full swing, and there are only four teams left in the NCAA basketball championship. The heavily favored Michigan Spartans and the underdog Troy Trojans meet in the first game in the semifinals, and it's there that the fates of Malcolm, Roko, Crispin, and M.J. intertwine. As the last moments tick down on the game clock, you'll learn how each player went from being a kid who loves to shoot hoops to a powerful force in one of the most important games of the year. Which team will leave the Superdome victorious??