

8th Grade Summer Reading List

Directions: You are to read one of the selected books below. Some of these books may be part of a series. If you have already read a particular book on this list, and know of its sequel, please feel free to read it.

As a project, you are to write a book review of the book you read. However, you have some choices as to how you can approach this assignment. The three choices are below:

1. Typed book review which is 1 – 1.5 pages in length, Times New Roman, 12 font
2. Make a comic strip of your favorite chapter, with a paragraph explaining why this was your favorite chapter.
3. Type the “next chapter” following the last chapter in the book. This could be considered a prologue if you wish, but these events must occur after the last chapter in the book.

Does My Head Look Big in This?, by Randa Fattah-Abdel (Fiction)

16-Year-old Ama, an Australian-born Muslim Palestinian, decides she is ready to wear the hijab, or head covering, as a sign of her deep faith. Ama copes with misconceptions and discrimination in a humorous way as she defends her decision to herself and others.

Fever 1793, by Laurie Halse Anderson (Fiction)

Against the 1793 yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia, a teenage Matilda struggles to keep herself and those she loves alive

Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science, by Marc Aronson (Non-Fiction).

This book explores the history and impact of sugar on our world, from slavery to revolution to human rights.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up In Hitler’s Shadow, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Non-Fiction)

A look at the youth organizations Hitler founded and used to meet his social and military ends.

They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Non-Fiction).

Examine how the Ku Klux Klan formed and grew out of the ashes of the Civil War. The selected stories of people on all sides of the violent conflicts provide a larger understanding of the conditions that promoted the Klan’s terrorism. The story examines how the freed people and their sympathizers suffered and how the legacy of that fear, racism, and brutality runs through our own time.

Summer Before Boys, by Nora Raleigh Baskin (Fiction)

Julia and Eliza are lifelong friends who have shared everything until one develops her first real crush. The girls find themselves drifting apart until Eliza does something drastic to win back her best friend.

Small Persons with Wings, by Ellen Booraem (Fantasy)

For generations, the Turpin family has been providing sanctuary for Parvi, known in some circles as fairies. In return for this protection, these Small Persons with Wings gave the family a magical moonstone. Trouble begins when the Parvi want their moonstone back, but the Turpins can’t find it. As the Parvi become more and more angry, this clever fantasy book becomes increasingly humorous.

Compound, by S.A. Bodeen (Fiction)

Fifteen-year-old Eli has spent the last six years with his family in a massive underground shelter his father built, knowing that nuclear war destroyed life as they knew it. With nine years to go before the air outside will be safe to breathe, Eli is starting to doubt his father’s words.

Matched, by Ally Condie (Fiction)

Torn between loving her best friend Xander who was chosen by Society as her “match,” or obeying the government and opening her heart to Ky Markem, Casia Reyes is forced to make the hardest decisions of her life – believe in the government’s system or follow her heart.

The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P.T. Barnum, by Candace Fleming (Non-fiction)

This biography takes a look at the life of the entrepreneur and showman P.T. Barnum, the man behind The Greatest Show on Earth. From jumbo elephants to three-ring circuses, the story follows Barnum from his childhood to his amazing success to financial disaster and back again.

Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Not Reading, by Tom Greenwald (Non-fiction)

Charlie Joe Jackson hates to read. He hates to read so much that he’ll do whatever he can to NOT read.

This “perfect” record of not reading is in jeopardy when he enters middle school, and is forced to read a book.
Seraphina, by Rachel Hartman (Fantasy)

Four decades of peace have done little to ease the mistrust between humans and dragons in the kingdom of Goredd. A treaty is about to be renewed, but rebels are unhappy with the treaty and would love to have it abolished. Seraphina is a half-dragon, half-human music teacher and tries to fit into society.

The Secret of the Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing, by Suzanne Jurmain (Non-fiction)

Fever, chills, headaches, vomiting blood, and liver failure – all symptoms of a deadly disease, yellow fever. Follow Walter Reed and his team of doctors as they travel to Cuba in 1900 to run lab reports, use soldiers as test subjects, and experience challenges and triumphs to one of modern history’s most notorious disease

Hero, by Mike Lupica (Fiction)

In this fast-paced adventure story, fourteen-year-old Zach Harriman races to uncover the mystery behind his dad’s death, while also learning to control his new superhero powers. Will he discover the truth and learn to trust himself in time to face his father’s fiercest enemies – or will he be too late?