

8th Grade Reading List

Students are expected to read at least FIVE books from this list, including the core novel, which will be discussed in their History classes. A reading log must be signed and turned in to advisors during the first week of class.

Core book to be read by all - select one

Sarah L. Delaney, A. Elizabeth Delaney, Amy Hill Hearth. Having Our Say : The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years.

Warm, feisty, and intelligent, the Delany sisters speak their mind in a book that is at once a vital historical record and a moving portrait of two remarkable women who continued to love, laugh, and embrace life after over a hundred years of living side by side.

OR

Sharon M. Draper. Fire From the Rock.

Sylvia Patterson is shocked and confused when she is asked to be one of the first black students to attend Central High School, which is scheduled to be integrated in September 1957, whether the citizens or governor of Arkansas like it or not.

OR

M. E. Kerr. Slap Your Sides.

As a Quaker during WWII, teenager Jubal Shoemaker is a pacifist. But it's hard in their small Pennsylvania town to be against the war when patriotism is fervent. Strong and complicated characterizations, gripping ideas, and a shocking ending create a morally challenging story.

Farah Ahmedi with Tamin Ansary. The Story of My Life: an Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky.

Farah Ahmedi, the victim of a land mine when she was just twelve years old, tells about her childhood in Afghanistan, a country trapped in war her entire life, and discusses the challenges she has faced as a result of losing her leg, and in trying to adapt to living in the United States.

Malin Alegria. Estrella's Quinceanera.

Estrella's mother and aunt are planning a gaudy, traditional quinceañera for her, even though it is the last thing she wants. How can she even think about a quince party when she has ignored her San Jose barrio homegirls since winning a scholarship to a prestigious private school? Lots of complications as she tries to move between two worlds.

Laurie Halse Anderson. Fever 1793.

Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.

Avi. Nothing But the Truth: a Documentary Novel.

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing 'The Star-Spangled Banner' during homeroom becomes a national news story. Newbery Honor Book. James Bradley. *Flags of Our Fathers* Heroes of Iwo Jima. (abridged)

In February 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima and into history. The son of one of the flag raisers has written a powerful account of six very different men who came together in the heroic battle for the Pacific's most crucial island.

Andrew Clements. Things Not Seen; Things Hoped For. (only one can count)

When fifteen year old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend, Alicia, try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Eoin Colfer. The Supernaturalist.

In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

Robert Cormier. The Rag and Bone Shop.

Trent, an ace interrogator from Vermont, works to procure a confession from an introverted twelve-year-old accused of murdering his seven-year-old friend in this psychological thriller.

John Flanagan. Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan; The Burning Bridge; The Icebound Land: Battle for Skandia. (only one can count)

He had always wanted to be a warrior. But fifteen year-old Will has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't realize yet is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom, highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, fighting the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied

Cornelia Funke. Inkheart; Inkspell. (only one can count)

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Margaret Haddix. Turnabout.

In the year 2000 Melly and Anny Beth were old and ready to die. But when offered the chance to be young again by participating in a top-secret experiment called Project Turnabout, they agreed. They received injections that made them grow younger, and it seemed like a miracle. But when the injections that were supposed to stop the unaging process turned out to be deadly, Melly and Anny Beth decided to run for their lives.

Mary Hoffman. Stravaganza: City of Masks. Stravaganza II: City of Stars.

During the day, Lucien battles cancer in his modern, normal life. But at night, he becomes a Stravagante, a time-traveler of sorts who finds himself in Belleza, a city parallel to old Venice. Befriended by a local girl and protected by an older Stravagante, Lucien uncovers a plot to murder the city's beloved ruler, the Duchessa. But to save the Duchessa and the city Lucien risks losing his only chance to return home to his family and his real life.

Anthony Horowitz. South by Southeast; Public Enemy Number Two; Falcon's Malteser; I know What You Did Last Wednesday. (Diamond Brothers series) (only one can count)

Fourteen-year-old Nick and his bumbling detective brother Tim Diamond investigate a mystery involving international spies and assassins.

Gordon Korman. Son of the Mob. Son of the Mob: Hollywood Hustle. (only one can count)

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

David Lubar. 2008 Kyle Likover Memorial Visiting Author (only one counts)

Dunk.

Chad, hoping to work out his frustrations and his anger by taking a summer job as a dunk tank Bozo on the boardwalk at the New Jersey shore, comes to a better understanding of himself and the uses of humor as he undergoes training in the fine art of insults.

OR

Hidden Talents; True Talents.

Thirteen-year-old Martin, a new student at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

OR

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie.

Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. And you can never get enough sleep. Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Meanwhile, he's trying his best to capture the attention of Julia, the freshman goddess. So while he tries to find his place in the confusing world of high school, win Julia's heart, and keep his sanity, Scott will be recording all the details.

Mile Lupica. Heat.

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Lensey Namioka. Ties That Bind, Ties That Break: a Novel.

Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

Sara Nickerson. How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found.

With a swimming medal, the key to a mansion, and a comic book about a half-man/half-rat as her only clues, a twelve-year-old girl seeks the true story of her father's mysterious death four years earlier near an island in the Pacific Northwest.

James Patterson. Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment; Maximum Ride: School's Out Forever; Maximum Ride Book: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports. (only one can count)

This is nonstop action as Max (aka Maximum Ride) leads a band of mutant orphans hiding from the sinister scientists at "the School," who grafted avian DNA onto their genes, giving them wings. "Erasers" (genetic combinations of men and wolves) pursue them at every turn. A page-turner from start to finish.

Richard Peck. A Year Down Yonder. A Long Way From Chicago. (only one can count)

Set during the Depression, these books cover outrageous stories of life with a wacky grandmother.

Susan Beth Pfeffer. Life As We Knew It.

In this survival story, an asteroid hits the moon, knocking it closer toward Earth, which results in cataclysmic natural disasters. Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, volcanic ash blocks out the sun, and summer turns to Arctic winter?

Jeanette Rallison. Playing the Field.

Thirteen-year-old McKay tries to keep up his algebra grade to stay on the baseball team, while dealing with his attraction to a girl named Serena.

Gary D. Schmidt. The Wednesday Wars.

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Eleanor Updale. Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?; Montmorency on the Rocks: --doctor, aristocrat, murderer?; Montmorency and the Assassins; Montmorency's Revenge. (only one can count)

In Victorian England, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilized the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.

Gloria Whelan. Homeless Bird.

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it. National Book Award.

Paul Zindel. Rats.

Staten Island and the rest of New York City are threatened by an invasion of vicious killer rats in this makes-your-skin-crawl thriller. Not for the fainthearted!

Markus Zusak. 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.

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