

8th Grade English Summer Reading 2018

Summer reading for the 8th grade requires reading three (3) novels: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, one from the attached suggested reading list, and one of your own choosing. Create a reading log to document what you've read and have a parent sign it at the end of the summer. Any books read beyond the summer requirements should also be included on the log. **Please bring your log on the first day of school.**

REQUIRED READING:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California.

We will discuss this novel at the beginning of the school year and then write a paper about it. No summer project is required! I do suggest you read *Of Mice and Men* last so it is fresh in your mind. I also encourage you to highlight and take notes in the book as you read. This will help you as we start discussing it.

Read, read, read, and I look forward to seeing all of you in August.

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SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS (you must choose one of these):

Alexander, Kwame. *Rebound*. 2018.

A novel in verse with all the impact and rhythm readers have come to expect from Kwame Alexander, *Rebound* will go back in time to visit the childhood of Chuck "Da Man" Bell during one pivotal summer when young Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents where he discovers basketball and learns more about his family's past.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak*. 1999.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Haddon, Mark. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. 2003.

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.

Hughes, Dean. *Four-Four-Two*. 2016.

Forced into an internment camp at the start of World War II, eighteen-year-old Yuki enlists in the Army to fight for the Allies as a member of the "Four-Four-Two," a segregated Japanese American regiment.

Khoury, Jessica. ***Kalahari***. 2015.

Deep in the Kalahari Desert, a Corpus lab protects a dangerous secret. But what happens when that secret takes on a life of its own? When an educational safari goes wrong, five teens find themselves stranded in the Kalahari Desert without a guide.

LaBan, Elizabeth. ***The Tragedy Paper***. 2013.

While preparing for the most dreaded assignment at the prestigious Irving School, the Tragedy Paper, Duncan gets wrapped up in the tragic tale of Tim Macbeth, a former student who had a clandestine relationship with the wrong girl, and his own ill-fated romance with Daisy.

Lockhart, E. ***We Were Liars***. 2013.

Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

Lowry, Lois. ***Son***. 2014.

Companion book to: ***The Giver***, ***Gathering Blue***, and ***Messenger***. Unlike the other Birthmothers in her utopian community, teenaged Claire forms an attachment to her baby, feeling a great loss when he is taken to the Nurturing Center to be adopted by a family unit.

Lu, Marie. ***Warcross***. 2017.

When teenage coder Emika Chen hacks her way into the opening tournament of the Warcross Championships, she glitches herself into the game as well as a sinister plot with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.

Schmidt, Gary D. ***Okay for Now***. 2011.

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

Shusterman, Neal. ***Scythe***. 2016.

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Sepetys, Ruta. ***Salt to the Sea***. 2016.

As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

Sheinkin, Steve. ***Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***. 2012.

Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***. 2014.

The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

Zusak, Markus. ***The Book Thief***. 2007.

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.