

# Reading Guidelines and Assignment

Reading List

Reading Log

Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Project

We all will spend time this summer relaxing with three good books...maybe even more for those who take on this challenge. Before you return in the fall, you will show off all of the work you did throughout the summer. Read the instructions below to guide you through the creation of your summer reading project.

Remember that first impressions count, and this project will be our first impression of you as an eighth grade student.

The rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders are asked to read three books this summer from the list provided. They are also required to complete:

1. TWO books reports on the books of your choice from the reading list (details on the report requirements found below).
2. ONE brochure with hand-drawn illustrations (does not have to be a typed brochure); details of the project found below.
3. A reading log to record your reading selection. A parent/guardian signature is required, as is your own to verify you read these books. Please also include any additional books you read this summer. Try to see how many on the list you can read! Visit the library!
4. Have a wonderful and safe summer. Enjoy every moment!

### Book Report Guidelines

Write a book report for **two** of the books by choosing **three** questions from the Summer Reading Questions list below. These questions are the same for both fiction and non-fiction book reports, so some terms like “character” will still apply to non-fiction books in this case. **You will only answer three questions from the list**—each student may choose which three questions to answer. Book titles and authors should be included in the reports. All reports are due on the first day of school in the fall.

## Summer Reading Questions

CHOOSE **THREE** QUESTIONS PER BOOK. Write one paragraph (8 sentences) for each answer.

1. How is this book like (or not like) your own life? Explain.
2. Which are the best parts of this book? Which are the worst. Why?
3. What was the author saying about life and living through this book?
4. What parts of the book seemed most believable? Why? Which seemed unbelievable? Why?
5. Do you think the title fits the book? Why, or why not?
6. Do you like the ending of the book? Why, or why not? Do you think there is more to tell? What do you think might happen next?
7. What do you feel is the most important word, sentence, or passage of the book?
8. What is the most important event, character, feeling, or decision in the book? Why is it important?
9. In what ways are you like any of the characters? Do you think this identification would help readers like you enjoy the book more? Why?
10. What character would you like to be in this book? Why?
11. What confuses you in this book? What makes you wonder and question things?
12. What came as a surprise in the book? Why?
13. Who else should read this book? Why? Who should not? Why?

## Brochure Guidelines

Create a brochure that tells about and illustrates some of the most important pieces of one book of your choice from the list provided. The brochure itself should be a simple piece of computer paper folded into thirds. No fancy binders are necessary.

The brochure should include:

**Front Cover:** Use your imagination to dream up what the cover of your book could look like. It could be the setting of the story, a picture of the main character—whatever you think is best. This should be very creative and very different from the actual cover! No copying or tracing!

**Left-Inside Page:** You will write a brief summary of the story on this page. Think of writing a summary that will capture the reader's attention and make him or her want to run out and buy this book...just don't give away the ending! It should be long enough to include all the important ideas in the book, but not so long that it retells the story.

**Middle-Inside Page:** Which character in the book do you most identify with or like the most? In a paragraph, explain three reasons why you chose the character you did and use specific evidence from the book to prove why you like this character best.

**Right-Inside Page:** What moment in the book seems the most powerful to you? Which one had you flipping through the pages long after midnight because you couldn't put the book down? Write a paragraph briefly explaining this scene and then explain to the reader why this, of all the moments in the book, was most powerful. You can give away important information in this paragraph if needed.

\*\*\*Creativity counts! Each page should have at least one color illustration on it.

This project will be due on first day of school in the fall.

Summer Reading 2014  
(for students entering grade 8)

REALISTIC FICTION

*Hope Was Here* Joan Bauer

Ever since her mother left, Hope has, with her comfort-food-cooking aunt Addie, been serving up the best in diner food from Pensacola, Florida to NYC. Moving has been tough, so it comes as a surprise to 16-year-old Hope, that rural Wisconsin, where she and her aunt are now settled, offers more excitement, friendship, and even romance (for both Hope and Addie) than the big city.

*Dacey's Song* by Cynthia Voigt

At the beginning of summer, Momma had abandoned them and they had later been traced to an asylum where she lay unrecognized, unknowing. So Dacey Tillerman, her brothers James and Sammy, and her sister Maybeth had spent the summer on their own on a long and difficult journey to find a home with the grandmother they'd never met before. Now that they'd moved in with Gram, their troubles, Dacey hoped, would be over. Dacey had watched over the younger kids and brought them through--now she wanted to be just a little bit selfish, to refinish the old sailboat she'd found in Gram's barn, to earn a little spending money, to adjust to Gram and to her new life in the Chesapeake Bay country that had once been her momma's childhood home. Yet even with the building of new ties and a new life, old problems and sorrows did not go away by themselves. None of the Tillermans, and especially not Dacey, could forget about Momma.

*Tangerine* Edward Bloor

Paul Fisher, a legally blind seventh grader, has a passion for soccer and a deep mistrust of his football hero brother, Erik. Why is everyone blind to the truth?

*Ruby Holler* Sharon Creech

Having suffered through a string of appalling foster homes, 13-year-old orphans and twins, Dallas and Florida, have pretty much given up on ever finding a happy home, until an eccentric older couple enters their lives. The suffering of their peers and are thankful they aren't the ones in the spotlight.

*Dairy Queen* Catherine Murdock

Girl joins football team.

*Of Sound Mind* Jean Ferris

Universal issues of family relationships, coming-of age, and death are packed tightly in this thought-provoking, richly cast novel about teenage Theo, who is the only hearing member in his family of four.

*Flush* Carl Hiassen

Noah and his sister try to stop the sabotage of Florida's natural resources. This author of *Hoot* once again has an entertaining story with a serious message about conservation and greed.

*Heat* Mike Lupica

Michael Arroyo is a 12-year-old Cuban American who lives in the shadow of Yankee Stadium and has big baseball dreams himself.

*Six Innings* James Preller

If you love baseball, you'll love this book, where most of the action takes place on the field.

*Ruby Electric* Theresa Nelson

At 12, Ruby Miller's life is on a downward spiral. Her dad has stood her up three times; she unwittingly let the Salvation Army take her little brother Pete's beloved puppet; and she is doing community service with her two arch enemies after being arrested holding a spray paint can. Ruby's only salvation is the screenplay she is writing in her room, in which life always "works out" for the beautiful, courageous heroine. A spirited redhead who sees her life as a screenplay, she is determined to make a difference, whether it's by reuniting her brother with his puppet, or by becoming the world's youngest famous screenplay writer and the savior of the L.A. River. Ruby's voice is electric, and she is an unforgettable character with courage, a cause, and imagination. American Library Association Notable Books (from *Booklist*)

*The Schwa Was Here* Neil Shusterman

Eighth-grader "Antsy" Bonano recounts how his accidental relationship with three quirky characters winds up being mutually beneficial. The catalyst in this social collision is Calvin Schwa, a classmate who has an almost supernatural knack for going completely unnoticed. When Antsy decides to become an "agent" for the "nearly invisible" Schwa by entertaining wagers on what he can get away with by being able to fly almost entirely beneath the social radar, the boys enjoy temporary success until they accept a dare requiring "The Schwa" to enter the home of a legendary local eccentric and retrieve a dog bowl belonging to any one of his 14 Afghans.

*Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie* Jordan Sonnenblick

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. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities this is a heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

*Miracle's Boys* Jacqueline Woodson

This is the story of three brothers raising themselves after they lost their father in a drowning accident and their mother to diabetes. Each boy deals with grief differently, while struggling against pretty large odds.

#### HISTORICAL FICTION

*The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* Karen Cushman

Lucy's widowed mother takes the family away from the comfort of Massachusetts and moves them to a rough mining camp of the California Gold Rush.

Bette Green, *Summer of My German Soldier*

The summer that Patty Bergen turns twelve is a summer that will haunt her forever. When her small hometown in Arkansas becomes the site of a camp housing German prisoners during World War II, Patty learns what it means to open her heart. Even though she's Jewish, she begins to see a prison escapee, Anton, not as a Nazi, but as a lonely, frightened young man with feelings not unlike her own.

Willa Cather, *My Antonia*

One of Cather's earliest novels — written in 1918 — is the story of Antonia Shimerda, who arrives on the Nebraska frontier as part of a family of Bohemian emigrants. In quiet, probing depth, the story commemorates the spirit and courage of the immigrant pioneers whose persistence and strength helped to build America.

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the

property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

*Night Journey* Kathryn Lasky

A young girl ignores her parents' wishes and persuades her great-grandmother to relate the story of her escape from Czarist Russia.

*When I Crossed No-Bob* Margaret McMullan

A gritty, beautifully told story about a girl's adjustment to life after the Civil War. Life as an O'Donnell is all twelve-year-old Addy knows, and life as an O'Donnell means trouble. Tucked away in a gray patch of woods called No-Bob, the O'Donnell clan has nothing but a bad reputation. So when Addy's mama abandons her on the afternoon of Mr. Frank Russell's wedding celebration, nobody is very surprised. A reluctant Mr. Frank and his new wife take Addy in, and Addy does everything she can to prove that at least one O'Donnell has promise. But one day, Addy witnessed a terrible event that brings her old world crashing into the new. As she finds herself being pulled back into No-Bob and the grips of her O'Donnell kin, Addy is faced with the biggest decision of her life. Can she somehow find the courage to do what's right, even if it means betraying one of her own?

*Jip: His Story* Katherine Paterson

Orphaned Jip, believing himself to be a gypsy, grows up on a poor farm in Vermont in rural Vermont in 1855. An unusual friendship develops with an aged lunatic who is brought to the farm. Together they struggle to improve their lives through tests of loyalty and courage.

*Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* Gary Schmidt

When Turner Buckminster arrives in Phippsburg, ME, it takes him only a few hours to start hating his new home. Friendless and feeling the burden of being the new preacher's son, the 13-year-old is miserable until he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, the first African American he has ever met and a resident of Malaga Island, an impoverished community settled by freed or possibly escaped slaves. Despite his father's and the town's stern disapproval, Turner spends time with Lizzie, learning the wonders of the Maine coast. For some minor infraction, Turner's father makes the boy visit elderly Mrs. Cobb, reading to her and playing the organ. Lizzie joins him, and this unlikely threesome takes comfort in the music. The racist town elders, trying to attract a lucrative tourist trade, decide to destroy the shacks on Malaga and to remove the community, including 60 graves in their cemetery. The residents are sent to the Home for the Feeble-Minded in Pownal. When Mrs. Cobb dies and leaves her house to Turner, he sets off to bring Lizzie home.

## SCIENCE FICTION-FUTURE/FANTAS

*The Diary of Pelly* D L. J. Adlington

Inspired by wartime journals, this disturbing futuristic story begins when 14-year-old Toni V, part of a postwar Demolition Crew, discovers a diary while drilling up the ruins of City Five. Keeping the diary is against Rules and Regulations, but once Toni V secretly starts reading it, he is caught up in the life of Pelly D, a teenage girl from the past who had it all.

Lois Lowry. *The Giver*.

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. (*Newbery Medal winner*)

*Jules Verne. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.*

Science-fiction tale about a French professor and his companions who are trapped aboard a futuristic submarine with a mad sea captain and come face to face with exotic ocean creatures and strange sights hidden from the world above.

*Lost Years of Merlin* T.A. Barron This is the first of a series about Merlin's youth, told in the voice of the wizard himself. Other books in the series are: *Seven Songs of Merlin* and *Fires of Merlin*.

*The Face in the Frost* John Bellairs

*The Face in the Frost* is a fantasy classic, defying categorization with its richly imaginative story of two separate kingdoms of wizards, stymied by a power that is beyond their control. A tall, skinny misfit of a wizard named Prospero lives in the Southern Kingdom, a patchwork of feuding duchies and small manors, all loosely loyal to one figurehead king. Both he and an improbable adventurer named Roger Bacon look in mirrors to see different times and places, which greatly affects their personalities and mannerisms and leads them into a myriad of situations that are sometimes frightening and often hilarious.

*Tithe: A Modern Fairy Tale* (and the sequels *Ironside* and *Valient*) Holly Black

Sixteen-year-old Kaye Fierch is not human, but she doesn't know it. Sure, she knows she's interacted with faeries since she was little--but she never imagined she was one of them, her blond human appearance only a magically crafted cover-up for her true, green-skinned pixie self. This is the story of her journey into a dark, mystical world where nothing is what it seems.

*The Angel Factory* Terence Blacker

With the help of a friend, Thomas Wisdom opens a secret file on his father's computer, learning that his too-perfect family is part of an other-worldly organization whose mission is to save humanity from itself.

*The City of Ember* Jeanne DuPrau

Built as a last refuge for the human race, the city of Ember is slowly dying. When young Lina finds an ancient message, she enlists the help of her friend Doon, certain the message hold the secret to saving the city. (American Library Association Notable Books)

*House of Scorpions* Nancy Farmer

The topics of cloning, the value of life, illegal immigration and the drug trade are dealt with in this coming-of-age novel set in a desolate futuristic desert. (Newbery Honor)

*Tunnels: Book 1* Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams

First of a new series about multiple secret societies living beneath the streets of London.

*Among the Hidden* (series) Margaret Peterson Haddix

This series takes place in a society where the law limits families to two children, but third children live in fear and isolation, yet are not alone.

*The Wizard of Earthsea* Ursula LeGuin

*Wizard of Earthsea* readers will witness Sparrowhawk's moving rite of passage--when he discovers his true name and becomes a young man. Great challenges await Sparrowhawk, including an almost deadly battle with a sinister creature, a monster that may be his own shadow.

*Only You Can Save Mankind* Terry Pratchett



What happens when a new video game, provided by a hacker friend named Wobbler, is more than just a game? Johnny Maxwell is about to find out.

## MYSTERY

*Behind the Curtain* Peter Abrahams

The second entry in the Echo Falls Mystery series starts with the questions - Why is Ingrid's football mad older brother suddenly so much stronger and why has her father become so tense lately?

*The Man Who Was Poe* Avi

A terrifying tale of mystery, murder, and suspense, featuring a young boy searching for his missing family and the tale of the author who follows the boy, viewing the boy's troubles as the plot for his new story.

*Murder in the Vicarage* Agatha Christie

Leave it to elderly detective, Miss Marple, to find out who killed Colonel Protheroe, the most disliked citizen of the village.

*Driver's Ed* Caroline Cooney

A group of driver's ed students steal some highway signs as a class prank, with some tragic results.

*Code Orange* Caroline Cooney

As dedicated as Mitty is to avoiding study as he is to getting close to his classmate Olivia, he is not aware of the danger everyone is in due to his exposure to a century-old sample of smallpox scabs.

*Silent to the Bone* E.L. Konigsburg

Did the British nanny do it? She says it was 13-year-old Branwell who dropped baby sister Nikki and he's the prime suspect. Why has he been struck dumb? What does he know? Is his silence a weapon?

*Never Trust a Dead Man* Vivian VandeVelde

When a teen is accused of murder, he teams up with the unlikable victim's ghost to find the true killer.

*Black Mirror* Nancy Werlin

Convinced her brother's death was murder rather than suicide, a lonely 16-year-old girl trying to cope with her guilt and grief begins her own investigations.

## NONFICTION

Scott Hahn, *The Lamb's Supper*

The Lamb's Supper reveals a long-lost secret of the Church: The early Christians' key to understanding the mysteries of the Mass was the New Testament Book of Revelation. With its bizarre imagery, its mystic visions of heaven, and its end-of-time prophecies, Revelation mirrors the sacrifice and celebration of the Eucharist. Beautifully written, in clear direct language, bestselling Catholic author Scott Hahn's new book will help readers see the Mass with new eyes, pray the liturgy with a renewed heart, and enter into the Mass more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently, and powerfully than ever before.

*The Shadow of His Wings*, Fr. GereonGoldmann

Here is the astonishing true story of the harrowing experiences of a young German seminarian drafted into Hitler's dreaded SS at the onset of World War II. Without betraying his Christian ideals, against all odds, and in the face of Evil, GereonGoldmann was able to complete his priestly training, be ordained, and secretly minister to German Catholic soldiers and innocent civilian victims caught up in the horrors of war.

Melba PatilloBeals, *Warriors Don't Cry*

The searing memoir of the battle to integrate Little Rock's Central high school, as told by members of the "Little Rock 9."

*Revenge of the Whale* Nat Philbrick

This is the story of the Nantucket whaleship Essex, which sank in the Pacific in November 1820, after being deliberately rammed twice by an apparently enraged sperm whale. Three months later, five emaciated men were rescued from two small boats filled with the bones of their unlucky companions. The whale's attack on the Essex gave Herman Melville the idea for the climactic scene in *Moby-Dick*. The story of the Essex crew is a compelling saga of desperation and survival that will appeal to young people.

*Transformed: How Everyday Things Are Made* Bill Slavin

A brewer's delight showing how 60 everyday objects are made.

*Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Apes* Pamela Turner

Teams of veterinarians take to the mountains of Rwanda to safeguard the health of wild gorillas.

*The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq* Jeanette Winters

Fearing imminent war, Alia Muhammed Baker takes matters into her own hands to save the books in her library. Vibrantly colored pastel acrylic paintings create a sense of distance from the most brutal horrors of war, while celebrating the courage of a brave woman.

*Escape from Saigon: How a Vietnam War Orphan Became an American Boy* Andrea Warren

This gripping, true-life child-of-war account relays the story of a mixed-race orphan's evacuation from Vietnam on a plane under fire, his international adoption, his success in America, and his pride in his roots.

*Chew on This* by Eric Schlosser

In the New York Times bestseller *Chew on This*, Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson unwrap the fast-food industry to bring you a behind-the-scenes look at a business that both feeds and feeds off the young. Find out what really goes on at your favorite restaurants—and what lurks between those sesame seed buns. Praised for being accessible, honest, humorous, fascinating, and alarming, *Chew On This* was also repeatedly referred to as a must-read for kids who regularly eat fast food. Having all the facts about fast food helps young people make healthy decisions about what they eat. *Chew On This* shows them that they can change the world by changing what they eat.

#### BONUS SECTION\*

(these heavy-duty books can count as two)

James Fenimore Cooper, *The Last of the Mohicans*

Published in the early 19th century, James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* is a fictionalized adventure taking place during the French-American War. The daughters of an American colonel become caught up in the conflict between the two nations' contest for supremacy in North America, and embroiled in the war between the Native American allies of the two sides. Cooper's trademark intricacy of description and his portrayal of life during this tumultuous era have made *The Last of the Mohicans* one of the world's most widely read American novels.

Charles Daphne Du Maurier. *Rebecca*. For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, one of the most famous English country houses. Classic psychological thriller.

Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

Against the backdrop of the French Revolution, Dickens unfolds a masterpiece of drama, adventure, and courage featuring Charles Darnay, a man falsely accused of treason. He bears an uncanny resemblance to the dissolute, yet noble Sydney Carton — a coincidence that saves Darnay from certain doom more than once. Brilliantly plotted, the novel culminates in a daring prison escape in the shadow of the guillotine.

Alexandre Dumas. *The Count of Monte Cristo*. After escaping from the island fortress where he has been imprisoned for treason, Edmund Dantes sets out to discover the treasure of Monte Cristo and seek revenge against the people who falsely accused him.

Jane Austen, *Persuasion*

Twenty-seven-year old Anne Elliot is Austen's most adult heroine. Eight years before the story proper begins, she is happily betrothed to a naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, but she precipitously breaks off the engagement when persuaded by her friend Lady Russell that such a match is unworthy. The breakup produces in Anne a deep and long-lasting regret. When later Wentworth returns from sea a rich and successful captain, he finds Anne's family on the brink of financial ruin and his own sister a tenant in Kellynch Hall, the Elliot estate. All the tension of the novel revolves around one question: Will Anne and Wentworth be reunited in their love?

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Classic novel of consuming passions, played out against the lonely moors of northern England, recounts the turbulent and tempestuous love story of Cathy and Heathcliff. A masterpiece of imaginative fiction, the story remains as poignant and compelling today as it was when first published in 1847.

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

Orphaned Pip is apprenticed to the dirty work of the forge but dares to dream of becoming a gentleman — and one day, under sudden and enigmatic circumstances, he finds himself in possession of "great expectations." In this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward, the compelling characters include Magwitch, the fearful and fearsome convict; Estella, whose beauty is excelled only by her haughtiness; and the embittered Miss Havisham, an eccentric jilted bride.

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Although the poor but plucky heroine is outwardly of plain appearance, she possesses an indomitable spirit, a sharp wit and great courage. She is forced to battle against the exigencies of a cruel guardian, a harsh employer and a rigid social order. All of which circumscribe her life and position when she becomes governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr Rochester. However, there is great kindness and warmth in this striking love story, which is set against the magnificent backdrop of the Yorkshire moors.

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

Widely regarded as one of the funniest and most tragic books ever written, *Don Quixote* chronicles the adventures of the self-created knight-errant Don Quixote of La Mancha and his faithful squire, Sancho Panza, as they travel through sixteenth-century Spain.

\*You may also substitute one of these titles with an alternate one by the same author.

Name:

Date:

Grade:

Summer Reading Project

Summer Reading Record

List the titles with the authors of books you complete during the summer. Sign at the bottom. Rate the book on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest. Remember you must read a minimum of three books. If you read more books, it's not necessary to write more reports, but please record here what you read, the author, and the rating you give it. Happy reading!

Title

Author

Rating

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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8.

9.

10.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_