



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Summer Reading List
For Students Entering Grade 8

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
<u>The Endurance</u>	Alexander	This book provides an exciting account of Shackleton's legendary Antarctic expedition.
<u>George Washington, Spymaster</u>	Allen	A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.
<u>I Have Lived a Thousand Years, Growing Up in the Holocaust</u>	Britton-Jackson	A haunting and inspiring memoir of the Holocaust written by a survivor who was thirteen years old when the Nazis invaded Hungary.
<u>Jumping the Nail</u>	Bunting	This is the suspenseful story of California teens daring each other to leap from a dangerous cliff into the ocean.
<u>Artemis Fowl</u>	Colfer	Twelve-year-old Artemis, a millionaire genius and criminal mastermind, gets more than he expects when he kidnaps a fairy from the LEP recon Unit.
<u>*Burning Up</u>	Cooney	For a school project, fifteen-year-old Macy Clare researches the history of a burned out barn across the street from her grandparents' Connecticut home. During the process, she uncovers what destructive forces of hatred and prejudice were hidden in the past.
<u>*Painting the Black</u>	Deuker	Late bloomer Ryan Ward, just beginning to sense the magic of baseball, is faced with a heart-breaking dilemma when he must choose between his love for the game and his integrity.
<u>You Want Women To Vote, Lizzie Stanton?</u>	Fritz	This is an engaging historical biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It provides a lively look at her impatient, outspoken personality as she fought for women's suffrage.

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<u>Inkheart</u>	Funke	Cornelia Funke, the enormously talented author of the international best-seller <i>The Thief Lord</i> , brings readers another spellbinding tale of adventure and magic. Meggie lives a quiet life alone with her father, a book-binder. But her father has a deep secret-- he possesses an extraordinary magical power. One day a mysterious stranger arrives who seems linked to her father's past. Who is this sinister character and what does he want? Suddenly Meggie is involved in a breathless game of escape and intrigue as her father's life is put in danger. Will she be able to save him in time?
<u>Joey Pigza Loses Control</u>	Gantos	Joey Pigza, who struggles with ADHD, really wants his six-week visit with his dad to count, to show him he's not as wired as he used to be, and to show his dad how much he loves him. Carter Pigza, however, is not an easy guy to love. He's eager to make up to Joey for past wrongs, to show him how to be a winner, and to take control of his life. With his coaching, Joey's learns how to pitch a baseball, and he's good at it. The trouble is, Joey's dad thinks taking control means giving up the things that "keep Joey safe." If he wants to please his dad, he's going to have to play by his rules, even when the rules don't make sense.
<u>Shadows of the Dragon</u>	Garland	Sixteen-year-old Danny Vo is caught between two worlds. He fits in with his American friends; yet they don't understand his traditional Vietnamese home life.
<u>Song of the Buffalo Boy</u>	Garland	Loi, a seventeen-year-old Amerasian left behind when the Americans withdrew from Vietnam, wonders if she should abandon her beloved country for a new life in America.
<u>Bronx Masquerade</u>	Grimes	Nikki Grimes's background as poet and educator shines through in this story of teenagers in the Bronx who come to know and understand one another - and themselves - through the poetry they begin to share in their high school English classroom.
<u>*The Day They Came to Arrest the Book</u>	Hentoff	This novel focuses on the issue of censoring <i>Huck Finn</i> from a high school curriculum.
<u>Out of the Dust</u>	Hesse	It's 1934. Life is already tough in Oklahoma, and it's about to get worse. Billie Jo, her mother, and father are struggling through hard financial times. Billie Jo's mother is pregnant, and they're all looking forward to the baby's arrival. Before the baby arrives, however, the dust does. The fierce dust storms and their aftermath drive many of their neighbors away. Billie Jo's father will hear none of that; he has lived through hard times before, and he says they're staying.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
<u>Jason's Gold</u>	Hobbs	"Gold!" Jason shouted at the top of his lungs. "Read all about it! Gold discovered in the Yukon!" Within hours of hearing the thrilling news, fifteen-year-old Jason Hawthorne jumps a train for Seattle, stows away on a ship bound for the gold fields, and joins thousands of fellow prospectors attempting the difficult journey to the Klondike. The Dead Horse Trail and the infamous Chilkoot Pass stand between him and the perilous last leg of his journey. Can he make it 500 miles down the Yukon River before freeze-up? As Jason battles his way north, he meets a Canadian girl named Jamie and is befriended by a twenty-one-year-old writer named Jack London, but his only constant companion is King, a husky he rescues from a madman. Together they'll face moose, bears, and the terrors of the subarctic winter.
<u>River Thunder</u>	Hobbs	Jesse and the rest of the crew are excited to test their new maturity running the big rapids.
<u>Our Only May Amelia</u>	Holm	It isn't easy being a pioneer in the state of Washington in 1899, but it's particularly hard when you are the only girl ever born in the new settlement. With seven older brothers and a love of adventure, May Amelia Jackson just can't seem to abide her family's insistence that she behave like a proper young lady. She could manage better if only there were at least one other girl living along the banks of the Nasel River. Now that Mama's going to have a baby, maybe there's hope...
<u>Lord Brocktree</u> (The latest novel in the Redwall series)	Jacques	On his way to free Salamandastron from the invading evil wildcat Ungatt Trunn and his Blue Horde, the badger Lord Brocktree collects a group of supporters, including the haremaid Dotti.
<u>Gentlehands</u>	Kerr	Can Buddy's sophisticated, cultured grandfather be a notorious Nazi war criminal?
<u>Stray Dog</u>	Koja	Teenage Rachel wears her anger at her parents on her sleeve in an attempt to hide her loneliness and alienation, finding solace only in her writing and her volunteer work at a local animal shelter.
<u>Silent to the Bone</u>	Konigsburg	Did the British nanny do it? This compelling mystery is also a story of family and friendship.
<u>Horse Thief</u>	Peck	When orphan Tullis Yoder learns the thirteen horses he's cared for will be slaughtered when the rodeo closes, he steals them with the help of two friends in this witty, unpredictable, coming-of-age story set in Depression-era Florida.
<u>Within Reach: My Everest Story</u>	Pfetzner	Join teenage mountain climber Jack Pfetzner on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

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<u>The Golden Compass</u>	Pullman	It was no ordinary life for a young girl: living among scholars in the hallowed halls of Jordan College and tearing unsupervised through Oxford's streets on mad quests for adventure. Lyra's greatest adventure begins closer to home, the day she hears hushed talk of an extraordinary particle. Microscopic in size, the magical dust - found only in the vast Arctic expanse of the North - was rumored to possess profound properties that could unite whole universes. However, there are those who fear the particle and will stop at nothing to destroy it.
<u>Streets of Gold</u>	Raphael	Fourteen-year-old Marisia and her brother Stefan flee Poland and struggle to build a new life in America on the unforgiving streets of New York's Lower East Side.
<u>A Break with Charity</u>	Rinaldi	While waiting for a church meeting in 1702, Susanna English, the daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.
<u>Time Enough for Drums</u>	Rinaldi	Enjoy a story of romance and survival as one family struggles to overcome the hardships of the Revolutionary War.
<u>Esperanza Rising</u>	Ryan	Esperanza Ortega possesses all the treasures a young girl could want: fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and the promise of one day rising to Mama's position and presiding over all of Rancho de las Rosas. Tragedy shatters that dream, forcing Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. There, Esperanza must confront the challenges of hard labor, acceptance by her own people, and economic difficulties brought on by the Great Depression, while simultaneously learning the value of family and community.
<u>Stargirl</u>	Spinelli	When Stargirl arrives at Mica High, everything changes for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and the clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body.
<u>The Gospel According to Larry</u>	Tashjian	Seventeen-year-old prodigy Josh Swensen creates a cyberspace alter ego, Larry, who rages against consumerism and becomes a huge media sensation.
<u>The Other Ones</u>	Thesman	High school sophomore Bridget Raynes must choose whether to accept her powers of witchcraft or abandon them to become an ordinary teenager.
<u>Never Trust a Dead Man</u>	Velde	Accused of murder, teenager Selwyn teams up with the ghost of the victim in a desperate search to find the real murderer in this fast-paced Medieval whodunit.

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