

8th Grade English Summer Reading 2017



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. *Booked*. 2016.

Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

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.

Brande, Robin. *Fat Cat*. 2009.

Overweight teenage Catherine embarks on a high school science project in which she must emulate the ways of hominids, the earliest ancestors of human beings, by eating an all-natural diet and foregoing technology.

Hoose, Phillip. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*. 2015.

The true story of a group of boy resistance fighters in Denmark after the Nazi invasion during World War II.

Gangsei, Jan. *Zero Day*. 2016.

Eight years after being kidnapped Addie Webster, now sixteen, resurfaces under mysterious circumstances, significantly changed, and her childhood best friend, Darrow Fergusson, is asked by a national security advisor to spy on her to uncover whether she is a threat to her father's Presidency or the nation.

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.

Lunetta, Demitria. *In the After*. 2013.

In a post-apocalyptic world where nothing is as it seems, seventeen-year-old Amy and Baby, a child she found while scavenging, struggle to survive while vicious, predatory creatures from another planet roam the Earth.

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. 2001.

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

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

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swiroteck 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.

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.

Sheinkin, Steve. *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*. 2014.

Describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe and unfair conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights.

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.