

Dear 7th & 8th Grade Students & Parents,

As students grow and mature, they need to continually practice their reading skills. While early reading skills are basic, when students grow older, they need selections that stimulate them, improve their thinking skills, and enhance their vocabulary to prepare them for high school. There is a time and place for reading books “just for fun” as we adults all like to do, but we adults aren’t expected to take tests such as high school entrance/placement exams, the ACT, or the SAT.

The students will evaluate what they read this summer in many different ways, such as: presentations, oral book discussions, quizzes, and essays etc. Below is a list of a variety of books that each 7th & 8th grade student should choose from. **Any books by the authors below are also acceptable.** If you have read any of these books, you must choose three you have NOT already read. No “Illustrated Classics” are acceptable either.

At the beginning of next school year each 7th & 8th grader must have read at least three adult level books.

****The incoming 7th graders must choose at least one of those three adult books from the below list of books and/or authors.*

****The incoming 8th graders must choose at least two of their three adult books from the below list of books and/or authors.*

They will be expected to share with the class information and opinions about the three books they have read. One suggestion is to keep a notebook/journal so the students can remember basic things after reading them. Usually just a few basic facts such as characters’ names, setting, and a few key points of the plot will be enough to jog their memory. At the end of this packet I have attached a sample page that might help your child “take notes” after they read.

Suggested books and/or authors

Richard Adams. Watership Down
Mitch Albom. The Five People You Meet in Heaven
Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
Anderson, Laurie. Speak
Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice.
Austen, Jane. Emma
Bal Ducci, David. Wish You Well
Bissinger, H.G. Friday Night Lights
Bradbury, Ray. Something Wicked This Way Comes
Bradbury, Ray. Dandelion Wine

Bragg, Rick. Ava's Man
Brontë, Charlotte. Jane Eyre.
Brontë, Emily. Wuthering Heights.
Brown, Dan. Angels & Demons
Buck, Pearl S. The Good Earth.
Christie, Agatha. And Then There Were None
Clancy, Tom. The Hunt for Red October
Clark, Mary Higgins, No Place Like Home
Colfer, Eoin. Artemis Fowl
Conrad, Joseph. Lord Jim.
Cooper, James Fenimore. Last of the Mohicans.
Defoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe.
Delany, Sarah and Elizabeth. Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years.
Diamant, Anita. The Red Tent.
Dickens, Charles. A Tale of Two Cities.
Doctorow, E.L. The March
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. Crime and Punishment.
Du Maurier, Daphne. Rebecca
Edwards, Kim. The Memory Keeper's Daughter
Eliot, George. Silas Marner.
Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man.
Faulkner, William. As I Lay Dying.
Faulkner, William. The Sound and the Fury.
Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Great Gatsby.
Grishom, John. A Time to Kill
Grshom, John. Bleachers
Grishom, John. Playing for Pizza
Gunther, John. Death Be Not Proud.
Haddon, Mark. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time
Haley, Alex. Roots.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Scarlet Letter.
Heinlein, Robert A. Stranger in a Strange Land.
Heller, Joseph. Catch 22
Hemingway, Ernest. A Farewell to Arms.
Hickman, Homer. October Sky
Hillenbrand, Laura. Seabiscuit
Hosseini, Khaled. The Kite Runner
Hurston, Zora. Their Eyes Were Watching God.
Huxley, Aldous. Brave New World
Irving, John. A Prayer for Owen Meany
Kidd, Sue. Secret Life of Bees
Kingsolver ,Barbara. The Bean Trees
Klein, Lisa. Ophelia
Knowles, John. A Separate Peace.
Krakauer, John. Into the Wild
Kring, Sandra. Carry Me Home
London, Jack. Call of the Wild

Maguire, Gregory. Wicked
Malamud, Bernard. The Natural
Martel, Yann. The Life of Pi.
McCourt, Frank. Angela's Ashes
McCarthy, Cormac. The Road
McCullers, Carson. Member of the Wedding.
McCullers, Carson. The Heart is a Lonely Hunter
Melville, Herman. Moby Dick.
Meyer, Stephanie. Twilight
Meyers, Walter Dean. Fallen Angels
Mitchell, Margaret. Gone With the Wind.
Orwell, George. 1984.
Orwell, George. Animal Farm
Paton, Alan. Cry, the Beloved Country.
Patterson, James:
Piccoult, Jodi. My Sister's Keeper
Poe, Edgar Allan. Complete Tales and Poems.
Potok, Chaim. The Chosen.
Remarque, Erich Maria. All Quiet on the Western Front.
Salinger, J.D. The Catcher in the Rye.
Scottoline, Lisa. Think Twice
Shaara, Michael. Killer Angels
Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein.
Shepard, Alan and Deke Slayton. Moon Shot: The Inside Story of America's Race to the Moon.
Sinclair, Upton. The Jungle.
Smith, Betty. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath.
Steinbeck, John. The Pearl.
Steinbeck, John. The Red Pony.
Stevenson, Robert Louis. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.
Stockett, Katherine. The Help
Stoker, Bram. Dracula
Swift, Jonathan. Gulliver's Travels.
Tan, Amy. The Joy Luck Club.
Tan, Amy. The Bonesetter's Daughter
Tolkien, J.R.R. The Hobbit
Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
Kurt Vonnegut, Slaughterhouse Five
Walker, Alice. The Color Purple
Wells, H.G. The War of the Worlds
Wells, H.G. The Time Machine
Wharton, Edith. Ethan Frome.
Wiesel, Eli. Night

Name: _____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Main Characters & Description:

Main Plot Points:

Things that surprised me in this book:

What I liked about this book:

What I didn't like about this book:

Would I recommend this book to others? Why/Why not?