



Discovery Schools

Summer Reading List: Incoming 8th Graders

Parents and Students, we would like you to enjoy your summer and enjoy your summer reading as well. Therefore we have provided a varied list of books to choose from this summer.

Remember the only way to get better at reading is to continue to read! So pick something you think you'll be interested in. *Summer Reading is NOT optional.* Your teacher WILL expect students to have read their books and completed their assignments by the first day of school. Please read this entire document to make sure the entire assignment is completed.

Please note: Parents are highly encouraged to evaluate, approve, and even read the choices made by their children. Please help your child choose a book that is appropriate to their reading level based on the Lexile levels. If you have any questions, please email the 8th grade ELA teachers. Teacher email addresses are linked to the KDHSA home page.

REQUIRED Summer Reading Directions:

You will be reading TWO books. The first book is the required book that ALL incoming 8th graders should read. The second book may be chosen from the list below.

Required Book:

City of Ghosts, Victoria Schwab

Summary: Ever since her near-fatal drowning, Cassidy has been able to pull back the "Veil" that separates the living from the dead and see ghosts, not that she wants to, and she was really looking forward to a ghost-free summer at the beach; however her parents are going to start filming a TV series about the world's most haunted places, starting with Edinburgh with its graveyards, castles, and restless phantoms--and Cass and her personal ghost companion, Jacob, are about to find out that a city of old ghosts can be a very dangerous place indeed.

The required novel will be discussed within the first few weeks of school to focus on skills like character, plot, vocabulary, etc.

NOTE: There will then be a whole novel test during the third week of the 8th grade school year.

Choice Books:

For your book choice you need to fill out one of the following forms and bring it to school. Due on the first day of school. Form should be written using complete sentences. Answers may be handwritten or typed. We will be using this information to create a Flipgrid presentation of your book.

If you chose a fiction book, use this form:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sYBJZLjqOvm8f5Nsop7a_BaGUDil3dzOjA8ZZMB-WhM/edit?usp=sharing

If you chose a nonfiction book, use this form:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AzqMlouRVIqOqxiLiAOy4HAsMZW9jofcVNTVhXj9zo/edit?usp=sharing>

Students must read one book from the list below:

1. Benefits of Being an Octopus, The by Ann Braden

Summary: Seventh-grader Zoey Albro focuses on caring for three younger siblings and avoiding rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

2. Boy Bites Bug, Rebecca Petruck

Summary: To defuse a situation between his best friend and a new student, Nolan eats a live stink bug, gaining popularity and a class project idea but, perhaps, losing a friend.

3. Game Changer, Tommy Greenwald

Summary: While thirteen-year-old Teddy fights for his life after a football injury at training camp, his friends and family gather to support him and discuss events leading to his coma. Told through dialogue, text messages, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy's inner thoughts.

4. Love Like Sky, Leslie C. Youngblood

Summary: Eleven-year-old Georgie is still adjusting to leaving Atlanta for a small town, having a stepfather, and being unable to get close to her stepsister when her six-year-old sister, Peaches, suddenly becomes very ill.

5. Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish, Pablo Cartaya

Summary: After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mother takes him and his younger brother, who has Down syndrome, to Puerto Rico to visit relatives they do not remember or have never met, and while there Marcus starts searching for his father, who left their family ten years ago and is somewhere on the island.

6. The Night Diary, Veera Hiranandani

Summary: Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

7. The Serpent's Secret, Sayantani DasGupta

Summary: Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader in Parsippany, New Jersey, but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen, and soon she is swept into another dimension, full of magic, winged horses, talking birds (very annoying), and cute princes--and somehow Kiranmala needs to sort it all out, find her parents, and basically save the world. (LOC)

8. Small Spaces, Katherine Arden

Summary: After eleven-year-old Ollie's school bus mysteriously breaks down on a field trip, she has to take a trip through scary woods, and must use all of her wits to survive. She must stick to small spaces.

9. The Storm Runner, J.C. Cervantes

Summary: To prevent the Mayan gods from battling each other and destroying the world, thirteen-year-old Zane must unravel an ancient prophecy, stop an evil god, and discover how the physical disability that makes him reliant on a cane also connects him to his father and his ancestry.

10. Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World by Laurie Lawlor (non-fiction)

Summary: Katherine Coleman Johnson. Eugenie Clark. Marie Tharp. Gertrude Elion. Florence Hawley Ellis. Eleanor Margaret Burbidge. Acclaimed author Laurie Lawlor deftly paints portraits of each of these figures who refused to take no for an answer, pursuing their passions through fieldwork, observations, laboratories, and research vessels in the face of sexism, racism, and more. This diverse group of women, all with awe-inspiring accomplishments, were active mentors and determined people who wouldn't take no for an answer.