

SUMMER READING - BOOK SUGGESTIONS

For those students entering 8th Grade

FICTION SUMMER READING SELECTIONS

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants - by Ann Brashares

Over the summer, four friends share a second-hand pair of jeans (which happen to fit each one of them perfectly) and discover happiness, and all the complication of growing up.

Harbor Me – Jacqueline Woodson

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There in the room, they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. As their connections develop and their words bridge divides, the students realize that sharing their stories could be the very thing they need to give them strength.

Salt to the Sea – Ruth Sepetys

Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, war. As thousands desperately flock to the coast in the midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge, all trying for passage aboard the Wilhelm Gustloff, a ship that promises safety and freedom. But not all promises can be kept. A must read for historical fiction fans.

One of Us is Lying – Karen McManus

Pay close attention and you might solve this. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, the brain, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule. Addy, the beauty, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess. Nate, the criminal, is already on probation. Cooper, the athlete, is the all-star baseball pitcher. And Simon, the outcast, is the creator of Bayview High's gossip app. Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Everyone has secrets, right? How far would you go to protect them?

Restart – Gordan Korman

Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again, starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase, but who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. This story is one of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start.

Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters. This beloved novel has inspired countless television and movie productions. For the original story, characters, and magic, Lewis Carroll's popular tale is a must-read for all readers - it is nothing like the movie.

The Lord of the Rings series - J.R.R. Tolkien

A three-volume epic adventure set in the fantasy world of the Third Age of Middle-earth, a world inhabited by Hobbits, Elves, Dwarves, and Humans. Follow Frodo, as he and the Fellowship, attempt to defeat the Dark Lord, Saruman.

The Outsiders - S.E. Hinton

Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

The Sea of Monsters - Rick Riordan

In this second installment in the series, Percy is desperate to rescue his friend Grover, captive of the bloodthirsty Cyclops Polyphemus, and retrieve the healing Golden Fleece. The sheepskin is needed to restore the protection around Camp Half-Blood, the only safe haven for the children of gods and humans, heroes-in-training in our modern world.

The Hunger Games series - Suzanne Collins

By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. Books include *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mocking Jay*.

Tangerine - Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Walk Two Moons - Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Mind's Eye - Paul Fleischman

A novel in play form in which sixteen-year-old Courtney, paralyzed in an accident, learns about the power of the mind from an elderly blind woman who takes Courtney on an imaginary journey to Italy using a 1910 guidebook.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon - Kelly Barnhill

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest in hopes this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences.

Small Steps - Louis Sachar

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. This is the accompanying novel to *Holes*.

Dear John - Nicholas Sparks

John Tyree, home on leave from the Army, meets Savannah Curtis, an upper class, straight-laced college student working with Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina, and although their values conflict, the attraction remains strong until the 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. prompt John to re-enlist.

Ghost Boys - Jewell Parker Rhoades

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances.

The Call of the Wild - Jack London

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment - James Patterson

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. Book 1.

Divergent series - Veronica Roth

Set within a dystopian version of Chicago this novel has been compared to similar young adult books such as the *Hunger Games*. Novels included *Divergent*, *Insurgent*, and *Allegiant*.

Prisoner B-3087 - Alan Gratz

The story of a Holocaust prisoner who goes to 10 different Concentration Camps during WWII.

The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist-books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Milkweed - Jerry Spinelli

This is the story set in one of the most devastating settings imaginable - Nazi-occupied Warsaw during World War II. It tells a tale of heartbreak, hope, and survival through the bright eyes of a young Holocaust orphan in the Ghetto.

Scythe series - Neal Shusterman

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: Humanity has conquered all those things and has even conquered death. Scythes are the only ones who can end life - and they are commanded to do so in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe - a role that neither wants. These teens must master the "art" of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Delirium - Lauren Oliver

In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure. Living with her aunt, uncle, and cousins in Portland, Maine, Lena Haloway is very much looking forward to being cured and living a safe, predictable life. She watched love destroy her mother and isn't about to make the same mistake. But with ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena meets enigmatic Alex, a boy from the Wilds who lives under the government's radar. What will happen if they do the unthinkable and fall in love?

Dumplin' - Julie Murphy

Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean has always been at home in her own skin. With her all-American beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked, but when she starts to doubt herself because of a boy, she sets out to take back her confidence by doing the most horrifying thing she can imagine: entering the Miss Clover City beauty pageant to show the world that she deserves to be up there as much as any girl does.

Children of Blood and Bone - Tomi Adeyemi

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orïsha hummed with magic, but everything changed the night it disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With some help, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is set on banishing magic for good.

The Hate You Give - Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.