



## Summer Reading Gr. 8

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students to enjoy great books. The goal of the middle school summer reading program is to foster a love of reading. Reading over the summer can also help students to maintain or even improve their reading skills. In order to meet the needs of each students' reading skills and interests, the SMS summer reading list contains a variety of genres and levels. Students should be encouraged to read books that match their level of comprehension.

There is also a wide range of topics and themes that are represented in this summer reading list. As always, parents play a critical role in helping their child to choose books that are best suited for them. Common Sense Media is an excellent resource for families to help them understand the nature of the content in the novels that their children are reading: [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org).

Students must choose **two** books to read from the list and must complete the attached assignments. The assignments may be used for **either** book. Make sure you complete both.

If you are interested in another novel that you feel is best for you and is not on the list, you can message me on the Google Classroom Summer Reading. I trust that you and your parents will make good choices.

Google Classroom Password:**etsgxuf**. I will check the page periodically.

The assignment for each book can be done directly on the document.

Enjoy!



## Grade Eight Summer Reading List

***All The Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr- When Marie-Laure goes blind, aged six, her father builds her a model of their Paris neighborhood, so she can memorize it with her fingers and then navigate the real streets. But when the Germans occupy Paris, father and daughter flee to Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast. In another world in Germany, an orphan boy, Werner, who becomes a master at building and fixing radios, a talent ultimately makes him a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. Werner travels through the heart of Hitler Youth to the far-flung outskirts of Russia, and finally into Saint-Malo, where his path converges with Marie-Laure.

***Inside Out & Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai- Set during the Vietnam War, Ha has only known Saigon. Now, she boards a ship headed for hope—in America. This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing, told in poetic verse.

***Touching Spirit Bear*** by Ben Mikaelson After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen-year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

***Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive*** by Laura Hillenbrand -This captivating young adult edition of the award-winning #1 New York Times best-seller tells the story of Louis Zamperini's breathtaking survival odyssey and the courage, cunning and fortitude he found to endure and overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.

***Hidden Figures*** by Margot Lee Shetterly An account of the previously unheralded but pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to the space program describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their groundbreaking successes, in a bestselling account that inspired the film.

***Refugee*** by Alan Gratz A tour de force from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (Prisoner B-3087), this timely and powerful novel tells the story of three different children seeking refuge.

***Little Women*** by Louisa May Alcott-. The March sisters: talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, are united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.

***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson The most popular pirate story ever written in English, featuring one of literature's most beloved "bad guys". Its unforgettable characters include: young Jim Hawkins, who finds himself owner of a map to Treasure Island, where the fabled pirate booty is buried; honest Captain Smollett, heroic Dr. Livesey, ambiguous Long John Silver - one moment a friendly, laughing, one-legged sea-cook . . .and the next a dangerous pirate leader- and many more!

***Across Five Aprils*** by Irene Hunt Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

***The Hiding Place*** by Corrie Ten Boom-Corrie Ten Boom and her older sister Betsie had been sent to the camp for helping the Jews. At the risk of their own lives, it was the strength of God that sustained them through times of profound horror.

***The Zookeeper's Wife*** by Diane Ackerman-When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw—and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages.

***Hatchet*** by Gary Paulsen- Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake--and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure

***A Long Walk to Water*** by Linda Park-The book alternates between two storylines: one beginning in 1985 and revolving around Salva Dut, an eleven-year-old boy living in the South Sudanese village of Loun-Ariik; the other beginning in 2008 and revolving around a young South Sudanese girl named Nya.

***The Call of the Wild*** by Jack London-The story follows a dog named Buck, a 140 pound Saint Bernard and Scotch Shepherd mix. Buck is abducted from a comfortable life as a pet and tossed into the chaos of the Klondike Gold Rush and the brutal realities of frontier life. Buck changes hands a number of times before landing in the kindly hands of John Thornton.

***Ender's Game*** by Orson Scott Card Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life.

***Flowers for Algernon*** by Daniel Keyes Algernon is a lab mouse who has undergone surgery to increase his IQ, and soon this surgery is applied to Charlie Gordon. The operation successfully increases Charlie's intelligence, but only temporarily, and he is forced to watch himself regress. It's a book both heartbreaking and important.

***Sarah's Key*** by Tatiana de Rosnay -Paris, July 1942: Ten-year-old Sarah is brutally arrested with her family in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, the most notorious act of French collaboration with the Nazis. Before the police come to take them, Sarah locks her younger brother, Michel, in their favorite hiding place, a cupboard in the family's apartment. She keeps the key, thinking that she will be back.

***All the Broken Pieces*** by Ann Burg- Airlifted from Vietnam when Saigon fell and adopted by a loving American family, Matt Pin, 12, is haunted by what he left behind, even as he bonds with his new little brother and becomes a star pitcher on the school baseball team. Matt has a secret: he feels responsible for the horrific injuries his little brother sustained in Vietnam during the war.

***The Art of Racing in the Rain***, by Garth Stein-Enzo is a dog. And he belongs to Denny: husband, father, customer service technician. Denny's dream is to be a professional race-car driver, and Enzo recounts the triumphs and tragedies—medical, financial, and legal—they share in this quest, the dangers of the racetrack being the least of their obstacles. Enzo ultimately teaches Denny and the reader that persistence and a cheerful enjoyment of life will see them through to the checkered flag.

***Hidden*** By Miriam Halahmy-For 14-year-old Alix, life on Hayling Island off the coast of England seems insulated from war, terrorism, and refugees. But then, one day at the beach, Alix and her friend Samir pull a drowning man out of the incoming tide.

***The Hobbit*** by J. R.R. Tolkien-A great modern classic and the prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*. Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure.

***The Secret Garden*** by Frances Hodgson Burnett After the sudden death of her parents in India, Mary Lennox is sent 'home' to England, and the Yorkshire estate of a distant relative. Sad and lonely, her only interest lies in a secret garden, abandoned after a tragic accident. With the help of Dickon, a local country boy, and Colin, her guardian's invalid son, Mary's spirit is reawakened as they bring the garden back to life.

***The Thing About Jellyfish*** by Ali Benjamin-After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

***Kidnapped*** by Robert Louis Stevenson-Orphaned at seventeen years old in the mid-18th century, David Balfour soon discovers his father was the eldest son in the family, which would lead David to become the rightful heir to his family's estate. A crooked uncle, however, would not let go of the family inheritance without a fight. After a few failed "accidents," David finds himself abducted on a ship named *The Covenant*. Bound hand and foot, David must escape and find justice for his uncle's misdeeds.

***Murder on the Orient Express*** by Agatha Christie-A baffling murder occurs on a train trapped in a snowstorm, and the legendary detective, Hercule Poirot, is called upon to solve the case. Employing his impressive deductive reasoning, he carefully examines all the passengers on the train, picks apart their statements, and tries to find motives – no easy feat with such a sophisticated crowd.

**Book one**

**Title of the Novel:**

**Author:**

**Genre:**

**Directions: Select *ONE* of the themes listed below by highlighting it, or create your own theme. As you read, you should be looking for evidence that supports your selected theme. Use the chart below to record your evidence and your thoughts.**

Possible Themes
1. Belonging and acceptance 2. Bonds of friendship. 3. Unconditional love. 4. Overcoming impossible odds. 5. Loss of innocence/growing up. 6. Abuse of power and control. 7. Resistance of power and control. 8. Ordinary people finding courage. 9. The battle between good and evil 10. Judgement: how judgement does not always equal justice 11. Your own theme: _____.

Page Range (ex. Pg. 1-5)	Evidence from the Text (Cite evidence directly from the text <b><i>OR</i></b> paraphrase a scene)	My Reactions/Thoughts/Connections <b>Use the following phrases to begin.</b> This reveals... This is significant because... This means... This connects to the theme because... This makes the reader think... This makes the reader feel... Readers can connect... The reader may also be struck by the fact...


**Book two**

**Title of the Novel:**

**Author:**

**Genre:**

*Be sure to answer in complete sentences.*

- A. Briefly describe the setting of the novel.
  
- B. Briefly describe with detail 6 main events in the plot. Number each as a separate paragraph and make sure they are in order.
  
- C. Describe the main conflict in the novel and explain whether or not that conflict was resolved.