

Entering 8th Grade, Summer Reading

Dear Parents,

Attached you will find a list of summer reading book options for students entering into 8th grade during the 2018-2019 school year. Reading is to be completed before students return back to school. Students may choose to read one book from the list as long as it is within one point above or below their most recent ZPD reading range. The book they choose needs to be a book they have not read in past years. Reading levels can be found on your student's most recent STAR test results printout. Attached is a list of questions that students will be expected to complete to accompany their reading as well as take a reading comprehension quiz through the school's Accelerated Reader program when they return to school. They will hand in their **typed** responses to the questions on the first day of school. Enjoy your summer!

Hatchet

Paulsen, Gary

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.7**

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story

Park, Linda Sue

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.0**

Eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family when the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, and he must walk with other Dinka tribe members in search of a safe haven. The plot contains violence.

Guile

Cooper, Constance

IL: **MG+** - BL: **6.0**

In the Bad Bayous, guile, a power in the water that changes people and objects, sets sixteen-year-old Yonie Watereye on a path that puts her own life in danger as she traces her family tree, finding a murderer.

Ender's Game

Card, Orson Scott

IL: **UG** - BL: **5.5**

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer games. But in reality he is being trained to be the military genius that the planet needs in its all-out war with an alien enemy. Book #1

The Final Four

Volponi, Paul

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.8**

Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

Ship Breaker

Bacigalupi, Paolo

IL: **MG+** - BL: **4.4**

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has a decision to make. The plot contains profanity and violence.

The Book Thief

Zusak, Markus

IL: **UG** - BL: **5.1**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

All We Have Left

Mills, Wendy

IL: **UG** - BL: **5.6**

In interweaving stories of 16-year-olds, modern-day Jesse tries to cope with the ramifications of her brother's death on 9/11, while in 2001, Alia, a Muslim, gets trapped in one of the Twin Towers and meets a boy as flames rage around them.

Ruined

Morris, Paula

IL: **MG+** - BL: **6.0**

Rebecca moves to New Orleans to stay with her aunt while her father is traveling, and while most kids at school treat her poorly, a mysterious girl named Lisette shows her the hidden nooks of the city and reveals shocking truths about her own history.

Type your answers to the following questions and have them ready the first day of school.

1. What is the setting (time and place) of your book? Did it play an important role in the conflict of the story? If so, how did it affect the plot?
2. Who are the main character(s) in your book? What is their most noticeable personality trait? Which character did you relate to the most? Why? (you cannot write none)
3. How did the character(s) change?
4. Which character would you want to meet? Why?
5. What was the main conflict (what did the character(s) want) in the story? What did they have to do to try to solve the conflict? What decisions did they make in solving the problem that you would have done differently and/or the same?
6. What did you think of the ending? What would you suggest the author change?
7. What is a theme (underlying message about a topic, critical belief about life) in the book? Relate this to your own life experiences or to other books you have read.
8. What is your general feeling about the book? Explain. What would you say to someone who might want to read this book?