



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Dear Parents of incoming 8th grade class,

Happy summertime! Attached you will find a list of summer reading book options for students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the upcoming school year. This assignment is to be completed before students return back to school. Students are required to read one book of their choice from the list below. The book they choose needs to be a book they have not read in past years. 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 hard copy of typed responses to the questions on the first day of school.

Enjoy your summer!

### **Ender's Game**

Card, Orson Scott

IL: UG - BL: 5.5 - AR Pts: 16.0

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

### **Divergent**

Roth, Veronica

IL: UG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 16.0

In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice must choose one faction among five, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she does not fit into any one group. The plot contains graphic violence. Book #1

### **The Book Thief**

Zusak, Markus

IL: UG - BL: 5.1 - AR Pts: 18.0

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 story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

### **The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again**

Tolkien, J.R.R.

IL: UG - BL: 6.6 - AR Pts: 16.0

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return

### **The Story of My Life**

Keller, Helen

IL: UG - BL: 6.8 - AR Pts: 12.0

This is the story of Helen Keller's triumph over deafness and blindness.

### **Little Women: Book One**

Alcott, Louisa May

IL: **MG** - BL: **7.4** - AR Pts: **15.0**

This classic story chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sisters--Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth--as they grow into young ladies.

### **Ruined**

Morris, Paula

IL: **MG+** - BL: **6.0** - AR Pts: **12.0**

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. #1

### **The Hunger Games**

Collins, Suzanne

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.3** - AR Pts: **15.0**

In a future North America, where rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual survival competition, 16-year-old Katniss's skills are tested when she voluntarily takes her sister's place. The plot contains graphic descriptions of violence. Book #1

### **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**

Rowling, J.K.

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.5** - AR Pts: **12**

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Book #1

### **Code of Honor**

Gratz, Alan

IL: **UG** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **10.0**

When Iranian American Kamran Smith learns that his big brother, Darius, has been labeled a terrorist, he sets out to piece together the codes and clues that will save his brother's life and his country from a deadly terrorist attack.

### **Hatchet**

Paulsen, Gary

IL: **MG** - BL: **5.7** - AR Pts: **7.0**

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.

### **Life as We Knew It**

Pfeffer, Susan

IL: **MG+** - BL: **4.7** - AR Pts: **14.0**

Through journal entries, sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the Moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Book #1

## Summer Reading Assignment

**EXPECTATIONS:** Type your answers to the following questions and have them ready on the first day of school. Each answer should be supported by **clear evidence** from the book such as **quotations, examples,** and **summaries** of key scenes. Each answer should have a **minimum** of one **eight-sentence paragraph**. Your answers should use correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. This will be your first graded assignment of the school year.

1. What is the setting (time and place) of your book? What role did it play in the conflict of the story? How did it affect the plot?
2. Who are the main characters in your book? What are their most notable personality traits? Which character did you relate to the most? Why? (You cannot write none.)
3. How did one or more characters change? What made them 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? If you think the ending is fine, what did you like about it?
7. What is a theme (underlying message about a topic, critical belief about life) in the book? How does this theme relate to your life experiences, other books that you have read, and society?
8. What is your general feeling about the book? Explain key passages from the book that made you feel this way. What would you say to someone who might want to read this book?