

Summer Required Reading List

Upon return to school, be prepared to discuss the novel and answer broad questions about the characters, setting, and plot.

7th Grade

City of Ember

By Jeanne DuPrau

(AR 5.0/9 pts)

Many hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. It worked...but now the storerooms are almost out of food, crops are blighted, corruption is spreading through the city and worst of all—the lights are failing. Soon Ember could be engulfed by darkness...

8th Grade

Where the Red Fern Grows

By Wilson Rawls

(AR 4.9/11 pts)

A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn. Little Ann had the brains, and Billy had the will to make them into the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. *Where the Red Fern Grows* is an exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget. A classic I really want all of you to have read before you leave your childhood.

8th Grade HONORS

The Hobbit

By J.R.R. Tolkien

(AR 6.6/16 pts)

Whisked from his comfortable hobbit-hole by Gandalf the wizard and a band of dwarves, Bilbo Baggins finds himself caught up in a plot to raid the treasure hoard of Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon.

You Have a Brain: A Teen's Guide to T.H.I.N.K. B.I.G.

By Ben Carson

(AR 7.8/11 pts)

In *You Have a Brain*, Dr. Carson unpacks the eight important parts of T.H.I.N.K. B.I.G.—Talent, Honesty, Insight, Being Nice, Knowledge, Books, In-Depth Learning, and God—and presents the stories of people who demonstrated those things in his life.

(*You Have a Brain* will have accompanying assignments which will be emailed to you)

Middle School Suggested Reading List

I encourage you to select books from each genre and enjoy reading them over the summer. Once you return to school, you will be required to read at least one book **from each genre** throughout the year. Enjoy the lazy days of summer reading a good book!

The X indicates the recommended grade-level for the novel. If you are interested in reading a book above your grade-level, please get parental permission to read it.

Biography/Autobiography	6th	7th	8th
<i>Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom</i> by Lynda Blackmon Lowery Jailed nine times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers and how it felt to be part of changing American history.			X
<i>Courage to Soar</i> by Simone Biles Simone Biles' entrance into the world of gymnastics may have started on a daycare field trip in her hometown of Spring, Texas, but her God-given talent, passion, and perseverance have made her one of the top gymnasts in the world, as well as a four-time winner of Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro.		X	X
<i>Becoming Kareem: Growing up on and Off the Court</i> by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar At one time, Lew Alcindor was just another kid from New York City with all the usual problems: He struggled with fitting in, with pleasing a strict father, and with overcoming shyness that made him feel socially awkward. But with a talent for basketball, and an unmatched team of supporters, Lew Alcindor was able to transform and to become Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.		X	X
<i>The Boys who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pederson and the Churchill Club</i> by Phillip Hoose At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans...			X
<i>Lion: A Long Way Home Young Readers' Edition</i> by Saroo Brierley Aged just five, Saroo Brierley was separated from his family in India when he boarded a train that took him 1500km from his hometown. After weeks surviving alone on the streets of Calcutta..			X
<i>Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story</i> by Caren Stelson The true story of six-year-old Sachiko Yasui's survival of the Nagasaki atomic bomb on August 9, 1945, and the heartbreaking and lifelong aftermath.			X
<i>I am Malala: The Girl who Stood up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban</i> by Malala Yousafzai When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. She almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school...		X	X
<i>Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea</i> by Sungju Li			X

The intense memoir of a North Korean boy, Sungju, who is forced at age twelve to live on the streets and fend for himself. Sungju re-creates what it was like for a boy alone to be hungry and to fear arrest, imprisonment, and even execution. This riveting memoir allows young readers to learn about other cultures where freedoms they take for granted do not exist. (serious topic, parental permission required)			
<i>Red Scarf Girl</i> by Ji-li Jiang It's 1966, and twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, popularity, and a bright future in Communist China. But it's also the year that China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution—and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart. Over the next few years, people who were once her friends and neighbors turn on her and her family, forcing them to live in constant terror of arrest. When Ji-li's father is finally imprisoned, she faces the most difficult dilemma of her life.			X
<i>Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl</i> by Anne Frank In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they face the ever-present threat of discovery and death.	X	X	X
<i>No Better Friend: Young Reader's Edition: A Man, a Dog, and their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in WWII</i> by Robert Weintraub The extraordinary tale of survival and friendship between a man and a dog in war. Frank Williams and Judy, a pointer, met in the most unlikely of places: a World War II internment camp in the Pacific. Judy was a fiercely loyal dog, with a keen sense for who was friend and who was foe, and the pair's relationship deepened throughout their captivity.		X	X
<i>George Muller: The Guardian of Bristol's Orphans</i> by Janet Benge & Geoff Benge With scarcely enough food or money for his own family, George Muller opened his heart and home. Sustained by God's provision, the Muller house of thirty orphans grew to five large houses that ultimately over ten thousand children would call home.	X	X	X
<i>Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime</i> by Janet and Geoff Benge Gladys, a housemaid from England, dared to trust God in the face of dire and seemingly hopeless circumstances. She became one of the greatest missionaries of China, transforming the lives of thousands.	X	X	X
<i>Mary Slessor: Forward into Calabar</i> by Janet and Geoff Benge God would indeed answer the prayer of the fiery, red-haired woman from Scotland. For 39 years, Mary Slessor would labor in love among the unreached, often treacherous, tribes of Africa's Calabar region. Braving sickness, danger, and death on all sides, Mary became the cherished "White Ma" to entire tribes.	X	X	X
<i>Guts</i> by Gary Paulsen The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson. (author of <i>Hatchet</i>)	X	X	X
<i>Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit</i> by Laurie Lawlor. An illustrated biography of Helen Keller, sharing aspects of her personality and sometimes radical beliefs, and discussing her relationship with her teacher Annie Sullivan and other important people in her life and work.			X
<i>Basher five-two: The Scott O'Grady Story of a F-16 Fighter Pilot</i>		X	X

by Scott O'Grady and Michael French. U.S. Air Force pilot Scott O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and stayed alive with little water and no food in enemy territory after the F-16 he was flying on a peace-keeping mission in Bosnia was shot down.			
<i>Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board</i> By Bethany Hamilton Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.	x	x	x
<i>The Endless Steppe: Growing up in Siberia</i> By Esther Hautzig It is June 1941. The Rudomin family has been arrested by the Russians. They are "capitalists' enemies of the people." Forced from their home and friends in Vilna, Poland, they are herded into crowded cattle cars. Their destination: the endless steppe of Siberia.	x	x	x

Realistic Fiction	6t h	7t h	8t h
<i>Wonder</i> by R.J. Palacio <i>I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.</i> A story about a young boy who struggles to live his life as an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face.	x	x	x
<i>Hoops</i> by Walter Dean Myers A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.			x
<i>Brian's Hunt</i> by Gary Paulsen Two years after having survived a plane crash into the Canadian wilderness, a sixteen-year old returns to the wild to befriend a wounded dog and hunt a rogue bear.		x	x
<i>Brian's Winter</i> by Gary Paulsen Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.		x	x
<i>My Side of the Mountain</i> by Jean Craighead George A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.		x	x
<i>When the Road Ends</i> by Jean Thesman Sent to spend the summer in the country, three foster children and an older woman recovering from a serious accident are abandoned by their slovenly caretaker and must try to survive on their own.		x	x
<i>Alabama Moon</i> by Watt Key After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.	x	x	x
<i>Homeless Bird</i> by Gloria Whelan When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.	x	x	x
<i>Ruby Holler</i> by Sharon Creech Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.	x	x	x
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters. Together, the three of them experience danger, adventure, love, and sorrow.	x	x	x

Historical Fiction	6th	7th	8th
<i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i> by Lois Lowry Hannah thinks tonight Passover Seder will be the same as always. But this year she will be mysteriously transported into the past. Only she knows the horrors that await. (set during the time of the Holocaust)		x	x
<i>Milkweed</i> by Jerry Spinelli He's a boy called Jew. Gypsy. Stopthief. Runt. Happy. Fast. Filthy son of Abraham. He's a boy who lives in the streets of Warsaw. He's a boy who steals food for himself and the other orphans. He's a boy who believes in bread, and mothers, and angels. He's a boy who wants to be a Nazi someday, with tall shiny jackboots and a gleaming Eagle hat of his own. Until the day that suddenly makes him change his mind. And when the trains come to empty the Jews from the ghetto, he's a boy who realizes it's safest of all to be nobody.		x	x
<i>Christy</i> by Catherine Marshall In 1912, nineteen-year-old Christy Huddleston leaves her comfortable home to teach in a one-room schoolhouse in an isolated area of the Great Smokies.			x
<i>The Winter People</i> by Joseph Bruchac Fourteen-year-old Saxso, a member of the Abenaki tribe in Canada, embarks on a dangerous rescue mission when his mother and two younger sisters are taken hostage during an attack by the British on their unprotected village in 1759.			x
<i>Codetalker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II</i> by Joseph Bruchac After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.		x	x
<i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i> by Avi Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.		x	x
<i>Far Away Summer</i> by Johanna Hurwitz In the summer of 1910, Dossi, a poor Russian immigrant from the tenements of New York, spends two weeks with the Meade family on their Vermont farm, and all their lives are enriched by the experience.		x	x
<i>Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty: United States Marine Corps</i> by Ellen Emerson White An eighteen-year-old Marine records in his journal his experiences in Vietnam during the siege of Khe Sanh, 1967-1968. Includes a history of Vietnam, war timeline, glossary, and related military information.		x	x
<i>Midwife's Apprentice</i> by Karen Cushman In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.		x	x
<i>Weedflower</i> by Cynthia Kadohata		x	x

After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.			
<i>Numbering All the Bones</i> by Ann Rinaldi Thirteen-year-old Eulinda, a house slave on a Georgia plantation in 1864, turns to Clara Barton, the eventual founder of the American Red Cross, for help in finding her brother Neddy who ran away to join the Northern war effort and is rumored to be at Andersonville Prison.	X	X	X
<i>Song of the Trees</i> by Mildred Taylor During the Depression, a rural black family deeply attached to the forest on their land tries to save it from being cut down by an unscrupulous white man.	X	X	X
<i>The Upstairs Room</i> by Joanna Reiss A Dutch Jewish girl describes the two-and-one-half years she spent in hiding in the upstairs bedroom of a farmer's house during World War II.	X	X	X
<i>The Book Thief</i> By Mark Zusak It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books ...			X
<i>Allies</i> By Alan Gratz June 6, 1944: The Nazis are terrorizing Europe on their evil quest to conquer the world. The only way to stop them? The biggest, most top-secret operation ever, with the Allied nations coming together to storm German-occupied France. Welcome to D-Day.	X	X	X
<i>The Blackbird Girls</i> By Anne Blankman On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna.	X	X	X
<i>The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy called Eel</i> By Deborah Hopkinson As an orphan and a "mudlark," Eel spends his days in the filthy River Thames, searching for bits of things to sell. He's being hunted by Fisheye Bill Tyler, and a nastier man never walked the streets of London. And he's got a secret that costs him four precious shillings a week to keep safe. But even for Eel, things aren't so bad until that fateful August day in 1854—the day the deadly cholera ("blue death") comes to Broad Street.	X	X	X
<i>Ties that Bind, Ties that Break</i> By Lensey Namioka Ailin has watched her two older sisters go through the painful process of having their feet bound. In China in 1911, all the women of good families follow this ancient tradition. But Ailin loves to run. Knowing she will never run again once her feet are bound, Ailin rebels and refuses to follow this torturous tradition.	X	X	X
<i>Seeds of America Series: Chains, Forge, Ashes</i> By Laurie Halse Anderson			X

Chains chronicles the experiences of a thirteen-year old slave girl. Forge chronicles the experiences of a free black teen who enrolls in Washington's army. Ashes continues			
<i>Ring of Roses, Petals in the Ashes</i> (At the Sign of the Sugared Plum Series) By Mary Hooper About the plague in London in the 1660s, survival of a girl and her sister, as well as the Great London fire of 1666. Both of these novels are republished together as <i>The Fever and the Flame</i> .	x	x	x

Science Fiction/Dystopia	6th	7th	8th
<i>Ender's Game</i> 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.			x
<i>The Time Machine</i> by H.G. Wells Published in 1895, A pull of the Time Machine's lever propels a brave explorer 800,000 years into the future to a slowly dying Earth. There he discovers two bizarre races—the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks.			x
<i>Eragon</i> by Christopher Paolini When Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon soon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the Empire itself.			x
<i>The White Mountains</i> by John Christopher Long ago, the Tripods—huge, three-legged machines—descended upon Earth and took control. Now people unquestioningly accept the Tripods' power. They have no control over their thoughts or their lives.			x
<i>Jurassic Park</i> by Michael Crichton An account of the attempt, through a hair-raising twenty-four hours on a remote jungle island, to avert a global emergency - a crisis triggered by today's rush to commercialize genetic engineering.		x	x
<i>Cinder</i> By Marissa Meyer Sixteen-year-old Cinder is considered a technological mistake by most of society and a burden by her stepmother. Being cyborg does have its benefits, though...		x	x
<i>Life as We Knew It</i> By Susan Beth Pfeffer Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth. How should her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis wipe out the coasts, earthquakes rock the continents, and volcanic ash blocks out the sun?			x
<i>City of Ember</i>	x	x	x

<p>By Jeanne DuPrau</p> <p>Hundreds of years ago, the city of Ember was created by the Builders to contain everything needed for human survival. It worked...but now the storerooms are almost out of food, crops are blighted, corruption is spreading through the city and the lights are failing. Soon Ember could be engulfed by darkness...</p>			
<p>Among the Hidden</p> <p>Margaret Peterson-Haddix</p> <p>Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding. (dystopia)</p>	x	x	x
<p>Flowers for Algernon</p> <p>By Daniel Keyes</p> <p>The story of a mentally disabled man whose experimental quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life. As the experimental procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis.</p>			x

Fantasy	6t h	7t h	8t h
<p>The Hobbit</p> <p>by J.R.R. Tolkien</p> <p>The adventures of hobbit Bilbo Baggins in a land inhabited by dwarfs, elves, goblins, dragons, and humans. He sets off to recover a stolen treasure from the great dragon Smaug, the terror of the land.</p>	x	x	x
<p>The Fellowship of the Rings</p> <p>by J.R.R. Tolkien</p> <p>Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power before the evil Sauron grasps control.</p>		x	x
<p>The Chronicles of Narnia</p> <p>by C.S. Lewis</p> <p>Journeys to the end of the world, fantastic creatures, and epic battles between good and evil.</p>	x	x	x
<p>Ella Enchanted</p> <p>by Gail Carson Levine</p> <p>Based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.</p>	x	x	x
<p>Snow & Rose</p> <p>By Emily Winfield Martin</p> <p>Snow and Rose didn't know they were in a fairy tale. People never do...Once, they lived in a big house with spectacular gardens and an army of servants.</p> <p>Once, they had a father and mother who loved them more than the sun and moon. But that was before their father disappeared into the woods and their mother disappeared into sorrow. This is the story of two sisters and the enchanted woods that have been waiting for them to break a set of terrible spells.</p>	x	x	x
<p>The Goose Girl</p> <p>By Shannon Hale</p> <p>Ani, a princess, is betrayed by her lady-in-waiting who steals both her title and her future. Forced to hide her identity from those who would destroy her, Ani becomes a common goose girl in service to the prince she should marry. For the first time in her sheltered life, the princess learns what it is like to earn one's place and make true friends. Ani masters her fear of people, discovers her magic with animals, and creates a future for herself.</p>	x	x	x

Classics	6th	7th	8th
<i>Old Man and the Sea</i> By Ernest Hemingway			x
<i>Little Women</i> By Louisa May Alcott		x	x
<i>Treasure Island</i> By Robert Louis Stevenson		x	x
<i>The Count of Monte Cristo</i> By Dumas			x
<i>The Secret Garden</i> By Francis Hodgson Burnett	x	x	x
<i>The Outsiders</i> By S. E. Hinton			x
<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> By Betty Smith			x
<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> By L.M. Montgomery	x	x	x
<i>Of Mice and Men</i> By John Steinbeck			x