

Eighth Grade 2017 Summer Reading List

It is recommended that students take notes on characters, setting and plot as they read each novel. Students will have a written assessment on each book during the first weeks of September. Handwritten notes will be allowed during the written assessment, but typed notes will not be permitted.

REQUIRED READING: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

For the second book, students will **choose one book** from the following list:

1. ***Chains*** by Laurie Halse Anderson

“As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate, become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom. From acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson comes this compelling, impeccably researched novel that shows the lengths we can go to cast off our chains, both physical and spiritual.” *Amazon.com*

2. ***Rules of the Road*** by Joan Bauer

“Jenna has just turned 16 and gotten her driver’s license. Her life should be full of excitement and hope for the future. Instead, she has to deal with her low grades and an alcoholic father. She does have a job selling shoes after school, which is something she is really good at. She would rather see someone in a pair of quality shoes than the shabby things sold at bargain chain stores. When Mrs. Gladstone, the owner of the store, asks Jenna to drive her across the country to visit her other stores, will she get more than she bargained for? Along the way, Jenna learns some old truths and meets new and old friends. Will this help Jenna in other parts of her life?” *Reviewed by Linda K., North County Regional ; cmlibrary.org*

3. ***Warriors Don’t Cry*** by Melba Pattillo Beals

“In 1957, Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. That was also the year she became a warrior on the front lines of a civil rights firestorm. Following the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*, Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down. This is her remarkable story.” *Amazon.com*

4. ***The Contender*** by Robert Lipsyte

“Before you can be a champion, you have to be a contender. Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout, and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.” *Amazon.com*

5. ***Bomb*** by Steve Sheinkin

“In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.” *Amazon.com*

6. ***Storytime*** by Edward Bloor

“George and Kate are promised the finest education when they transfer to the Whittaker Magnet School. It boasts the highest test scores in the nation. But at what price? Their school's curriculum is focused on beating standardized tests; classes are held in dreary, windowless rooms; and students are force-fed noxious protein shakes to improve their test performance. Worst of all, there seems to be a demon loose in the building--one whose murderous work has only just begun.” *Amazon.com*

7. ***Little Women*** by Louisa May Alcott

“Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?” *Amazon.com*

8. ***Moves Make the Man*** by Bruce Brooks

“Reverse spin, triple pump, reverse dribble, stutter step with twist to the left, stutter into jumper, blind pass. These are me. The moves make the man. The moves make me. Jerome Foxworthy -- the Jayfox to his friends -- likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball. Then Jerome meets Bix Rivers -- mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves....” *Amazon.com*

9. ***All-American Girl*** by Meg Cabot

“15-year-old Samantha Madison becomes everybody's All-American Girl (HarperCollins, 2002) when she thwarts an attempt on the life of the president. This entry in Meg Cabot's Princess Diaries series focuses on Sam's hopeless crush on her sister's boyfriend, and her growing friendship with the president's son. There's lots of humor as she sorts out her relationships with her popular older sister and brilliant younger sister. There's also changing expectations from classmates who now view Sam as a celebrity. Fortunately, Sam's determination, combined with some good advice from a new art teacher, lead to a predictable happy ending.” *Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT*

10. ***The Glory Field*** by Walter Dean Myers

“ ‘Those shackles didn't rob us of being black, son, they robbed us of being human.’
This is the story of one family. A family whose history saw its first ancestor captured, shackled, and brought to this country from Africa. A family who can still see remnants of the shackles that held some of its members captive -- even today. It is a story of pride, determination, struggle, and love. And of the piece of the land that holds them together throughout it all.” *Amazon.com*

11. ***The Nazi Hunters*** by Neal Bascomb

“In 1945, at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazis' Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials -- one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination.” *Amazon.com*