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Summer Reading 2024

Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 8

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer reading should be fun! The eighth grade teachers have designed this packet to encourage students to read all summer long. They are asking students to read one assigned book. In this packet you will also find a list of book suggestions. The books on this list are not required, but are there for students who love to read. The book may be read as part of the Amesbury Public Library's Summer Reading programs that will run from June through August. Included in this packet you will find Summer Reading Tips for Parents, the summer reading assignment, a suggested reading list and a letter from the Language Arts teachers.

Extra copies of this list may be obtained at the Amesbury Public Library, the AMS office and the Superintendent's office. The list and assessment may also be found on the Amesbury Middle School's web site under the following Quick Links: Parent Letters & Information. The titles on this list may be borrowed from the Amesbury Public Library.

Please help us with our campaign to encourage our middle school students to keep reading all summer long!

Sincerely,

Jayne Viladenis
Principal

Summer Reading Tips for Parents

- Read to your child. Try to establish a daily routine that includes a time to read together. Bedtime is a traditional favorite, but any time will work that is convenient for you and your family.
- Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading for pleasure as well as for information. Let her know that you value reading.
- Give your child the opportunity to read aloud to you, a friend, another family member or another child. Make the experience a chance for your child to share his new reading skills. Have him read the book silently before asking him to read it aloud. Correct mistakes only when the mistake changes the meaning of the sentence and then supply the word without making him feel bad for having made a mistake.
- Include your child in your day-to-day reading experiences. Share recipes, the newspaper, magazines, the TV Guide, cereal boxes, menus, road signs, etc. Our world is full of things to read if we are aware of our surroundings.
- Talk to your child about the books she is reading. Tell her about books you enjoyed when you were a child and ones that you are reading now.
- Help him select books on topics he is interested in and on his reading level. A simple rule of thumb for helping your child select books at his reading level is to have them choose a page in the book (not the first one) and read it. If he doesn't know five or more of the words, then the book is too hard for pleasure reading.
- If you are planning a vacation this summer, write to the visitors' bureau of places you will be visiting and ask for information on the area and any special attractions, check out books from the library to get background information, or get brochures from your travel agent, share this information with your child; ask for his input on what activities he would enjoy. Hang a map of the places you will be visiting and/or traveling through on the wall and chart your travel route. These techniques will work after travel too.
- Carry a bag with books and activities to keep your child occupied whenever you have to wait.
- Get your child his own library card. Take or allow him to go to the library often, browse for books and enjoy special activities.
- Help her learn new words. Make a goal of one new word a day. Discuss words she comes across and doesn't know. This will help her to explain her vocabulary.

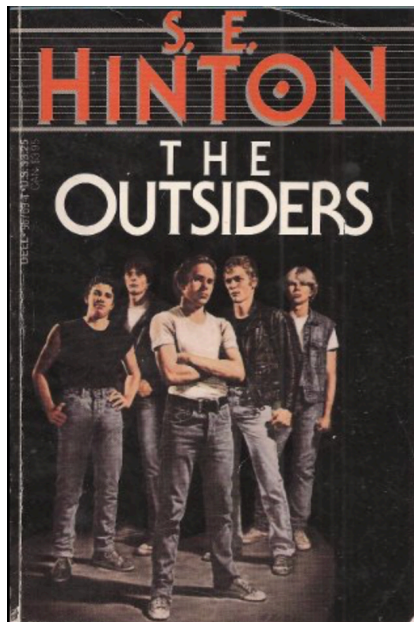
Use our electronic reading database, **Sora** and have thousands of books at your fingertips. Sora is an app that our school pays for, and students may log in to their school Google accounts. No passwords necessary. A link to Sora can be found on the library site, but it's easier to download the app. It's an excellent resource for students with kindles or other devices.

INCOMING EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

The eighth grade team has opted for students to read a required text, **The Outsiders** by **S. E. Hinton**. By reading the same book, students will have a shared experience that can jumpstart our year by providing an opportunity to focus on a specific theme or activity. You are also responsible for filling out a note taking sheet, which is due on the first day of school. We have also provided you with a list of book suggestions. The books on this list **are not required**, but are merely suggestions for those of you who enjoy reading.

TO SUMMARIZE:

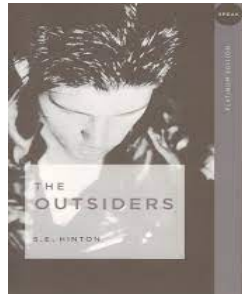
- READ THE OUTSIDERS BY S.E. HINTON
- COMPLETE THE NOTE TAKING SHEET
- BRING IT TO SCHOOL ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- THE LIST OF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS IS OPTIONAL. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ BOOKS FROM THIS LIST.



Grade 8 Summer Reading Information:

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." -Joseph Addison

"Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life." -Mortimer J. Adler



Student writers expand their knowledge as they read more and more. Your eighth grade Language Arts teachers want you to relax and read some great books this summer! This year, every incoming Grade 8 student will be reading the same book: ***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.**

These are the questions you will be asked to respond to within the first week of school. We recommend that you take notes on each of these bullet points as you read so you will be prepared to complete the Grade 8 Summer Reading assignment in September!

- Describe a memorable character from your book. Choose **a quote or two** from the text that reveals important qualities about this character.
- Describe how a character in your book has overcome adversity/hardship. **In what ways** did the character overcome this challenge or hardship? Be specific.
- In your opinion, what is the most important theme of the book? What **message** does the author put out through writing this book? Write about **three** specific examples from the story that support that theme.
- Write down three (3) facts about the author. This information can be found on the book jacket or on the internet.
- Devise three (3) questions that you would like to ask the author of the book that cannot be answered by reading the book – “deeper” questions.
- Did the book satisfy your expectations? Please describe what you liked about it and what you did not like about it. Be specific.

NOTE: In September, you will be completing an in-class project based on *The Outsiders*. Therefore, make sure your notes are sufficiently detailed so you can complete the assignment. We also look forward to having a class discussion with you about *The Outsiders* after summer vacation! See you in September!

Grade 8 Book Suggestions (not required)

Looking for another good book to read this summer? Try these.

Arnold, David (Realistic Fiction)
Mosquitoland

Rhodes, Jewel Parker (Realistic Fiction)
Ghost Boys

Buckley, Michael (Dystopian)
Undertow

Sanchez, Alex (Realistic Fiction)
So Hard to Say

Fairweather, Jack (Non-fiction)
A Rebel in Auschwitz

Schusterman, Neil (Dystopian)
Scythe

Flinn, Alex (Realistic Fiction)
Breathing Underwater

Spinelli, Jerry (Realistic Fiction)
Crash

Frank, Anne (Biography)
The Diary of a Young Girl

Sullivan, Tara (Historical Fiction)
Golden Boy

Gephart, Donna (Realistic Fiction)
Lily and Dunkin

Thomas, Angie (Realistic Fiction)
The Hate U Give

Gratz, Alan (Historical Fiction)
Refugee

Van Draanen, Wendelin (Realistic Fiction)
Running Dream

Haddon, Mark (Realistic Fiction)
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

Wallace, Sandra Neil and Rich (Nonfiction)
Bound by Ice

Hennessey, M.G. (Realistic Fiction)
The Other Boy

Westerfield, Scott (Dystopian Series)
The Uglies

Hoose, Philip M. (Biography)
The Boy Who Challenged Hitler

Yang, Gene Luen (Graphic Novel)
American Born Chinese

Larson, Hope (Realistic Fiction)
All Summer Long

Zentner, Jeff (Realistic Fiction)
The Serpent King

Paulsen, Gary, (Adventure)
Northwind

Grade Eight Summer Reading Book Summaries

*This list is **NOT** required, but definitely worthy of your time!

Mosquitoland ~ Arnold, David (Realistic Fiction)

"After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in Northern Ohio to the wastelands of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. So she ditches her new life and hops aboard a northbound Greyhound bus to her real home and her real mother, meeting a quirky cast of fellow travelers along the way. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane." Publisher's Summary

Undertow~ Buckley, Michael (Dystopian Series)

"Fourteen-year-old Lyric Walker's life is forever changed when she witnesses the arrival of 30,000 Alpha, a five-nation race of ocean-dwelling warriors, on her beach in Coney Island. The world's initial wonder and awe over the Alpha quickly turns ugly and paranoid and violent, and Lyric's small town transforms into a military zone with humans on one side and Alpha on the other. When Lyric is recruited to help the crown prince, a boy named Fathom, assimilate, she begins to fall for him. But their love is a dangerous one, and there are forces on both sides working to keep them apart. Only, what if the Alpha are not actually the enemy? What if they are in fact humanity's best chance for survival?

Because the real enemy is coming. And it's more terrifying than anything the world has ever seen." ~Publisher's Summary

A Rebel in Auschwitz ~Fairweather, Jack (Biography)

"Occupied Warsaw, Summer 1940: Witold Pilecki, a Polish underground operative, accepted a mission to uncover the fate of thousands interned at a new concentration camp, report on Nazi crimes, raise a secret army, and stage an uprising. The name of the camp - Auschwitz.

Over the next two and half years, and under the cruelest of conditions, Pilecki's underground sabotaged facilities, assassinated Nazi officers, and gathered evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. But as he pieced together the horrifying Nazi plans to exterminate Europe's Jews, Pilecki realized he would have to risk his men, his life, and his family to warn the West before all was lost. To do so meant attempting the impossible - but first he would have to escape from Auschwitz itself...." ~Publisher's Summary

The Diary of a Young Girl~ Frank, Anne (Biography)

"Discovered in the attic where she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.

In 1942, as Nazis occupied Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the secret upstairs rooms of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, Anne's account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short. ~Publisher's Summary

Breathing Underwater~Flinn, Alex (Realistic Fiction)

"To his friends, popular and handsome sixteen year-old Nick Andreas has led a charmed life. But the guys in Nick's anger management class know differently. So does his ex-girlfriend Caitlin. Now it looks like the only person who doesn't realize how far from perfect Nick's life has become is Nick himself." ~HarperTeen.

Lily and Dunkin~Gephart, Donna (Realistic Fiction)

"Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy.

Especially when you're in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change" ~Goodreads

Refugee~Gratz, Alan (Historical Fiction)

"Gratz's Refugee compellingly explores the desperation and strength that unites those struggling for a place to call home. ... Refugee is more than a story about children fleeing their homelands, it is a story about what unites us all... love, family and perseverance."~Publisher's Summary

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime~Haddon, Mark (Realistic Fiction)

"Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years." ~Goodreads

The Other Boy~Hennessey, M.G. (Realistic Fiction)

"Summer for Maddy Sinclair starts as a blur of house parties and dips in the pool—until she's caught throwing an unauthorized beachside bash. As punishment, her parents send her off to Napa Valley, where she'll spend her free time working on the family vineyard. Even with her boyfriend, Brian, miles away, Maddy's about to discover that the vineyard is a very romantic place. It's vast, sunny, magical . . . and there's another boy just waiting to steal her heart." ~Goodreads

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler ~Hoose, Philip M. (Biography)

"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, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. Interweaving his own narrative with the recollections of Knud himself, The Boys Who Challenged Hitler is National Book Award winner Phillip Hoose's inspiring story of these young war heroes. ~Publisher's Summary

That's Not What Happened ~Keplinger, Jody (Non-Fiction)

"It's been three years since the Virgil County High School Massacre. Three years since my best friend, Sarah, was killed in a bathroom stall during the mass shooting. Everyone knows Sarah's story - that she died proclaiming her faith. But it's not true. I know because I was with her when she died. I didn't say anything then, and people got hurt because of it. Now Sarah's parents are publishing a book about her, so this might be my last chance to set the record straight...but I'm not the only survivor with a story to tell about what did - and didn't - happen that day. Except Sarah's martyrdom is important to a lot of people, people who don't take kindly to what I'm trying to do. And the more I learn, the less certain I am about what's right. I don't know what will be worse: the guilt of staying

All Summer Long ~Larson, Hope

"Thirteen-year-old Bina has a long summer ahead of her. She and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month, and he's been acting kind of weird lately anyway. So it's up to Bina to see how much fun she can have on her own. At first it's a lot of guitar playing, boredom, and bad TV, but things look up when she finds an unlikely companion in Austin's older sister, who enjoys music just as much as Bina. But then Austin comes home from camp, and he's acting even weirder than when he left. How Bina and Austin rise above their growing pains and reestablish their friendship and respect for their differences makes for a touching and funny coming-of-age story.d." ~Publisher's Summary

Northwind ~Paulsen, Gary

"When a deadly plague reaches the small fish camp where he lives, an orphan named Leif is forced to take to the water in a cedar canoe. He flees northward, following a wild, fjord-riven shore, navigating from one danger to the next, unsure of his destination. But the deeper into his journey he paddles, the closer he comes to his truest self as he connects to "the heartbeat of the ocean...the pulse of the sea". With hints of Nordic mythology and an

irresistible narrative pull, Northwind is Gary Paulsen at his captivating, adventuresome best.” ~Publisher’s Summary

Ghost Boys ~Rhodes, Jewell Parker (Realistic)

“Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that’s been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey toward recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father’s actions. Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and sociopolitical layers into a gripping and poignant story about.” ~Publisher’s Summary

Hard to Say~Sanchez, Alex (Realistic Fiction)

“When Frederick shows up at school, Xio is thrilled. The new boy is shy, cute and definitely good boyfriend material. Before long, she pulls him into her lively circle of friends. Frederick knows he should be flattered by Xio’s attention. After all, she’s popular, pretty, and a lot of fun. So why can’t he stop thinking about Victor, the captain of the soccer team, instead.” ~Goodreads

Scythe~Schusterman, Neil(Dystopian Series)

“A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery. Humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.” ~Goodreads

Crash~Spinelli, Jerry (Realistic Fiction)

“Everybody knows Crash, seventh-grade football sensation. He’s been mowing down everything in his path since the time he could walk – and Penn Webb, his dweeby, vegetable-eating neighbor, is his favorite target. After all, Webb’s not just a nerd, he’s a cheerleader too. Crash and his best buddy, Mike, can’t think of anything more hilarious than making Webb’s life miserable. But Crash starts to realize that Webb has something he may never gain, no matter how many touchdowns he scores. And when Mike takes a prank too far, maybe even for Crash, the football star has to choose which side he’s really on.” ~“Publisher’s Summary

Golden Boy~Sullivan, Tara (Realistic Fiction)

“Habo has always been different. He has light eyes, yellow hair, and white skin. Not the good brown skin of his Tanzanian family and not even the same white skin of tourists. Habo feels strange and alone. Habo is albino. Habo and his family are forced to leave their home to escape poachers who hunt albinos for the good luck their body parts are said to bring. Now Habo’s life is in danger. And to survive, he must not only run, but find a way to love anThomas, Angie d accept himself.” ~Pub. Sum

The Hate U Give~Thomas, Angie (YA Fiction)

“Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Some are calling him a thug or even a drug dealer. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr. What really went down that night? Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl’s struggle for justice”~Goodreads

Running Dream~ Van Draanen, Wendelin (Realistic Fiction)

“Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she’s both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don’t know what to say act like she’s not there. Jessica’s embarrassed to realize that she’s done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she’s missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.” ~Publisher’s Summary

Bound by Ice~ Wallace, Sandra Neil and Rich (Non-Fiction)

"The ship Jeannette sets sail for the Arctic from San Francisco, looking for a route to the North Pole. The ship becomes locked inside Arctic ice and sinks after two years adrift. The crew escape on lifeboats and make a harrowing journey back to civilization that not all survive." ~Goodreads

The Uglies~ Westerfield, Scott (Dystopian Series)

"Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In just a few weeks she'll have the operation that will turn her from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty. And as a pretty, she'll be catapulted into a high-tech paradise where her only job is to have fun. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to become a pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world—and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally a choice: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. Tally's choice will change her world forever." ~Goodreads

Yang, Gene Luen (Graphic Novel)

American Born Chinese

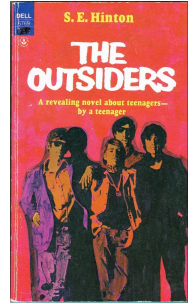
"American Born Chinese tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable." ~Publisher's Summary

Zentner, Jeff (Realistic Fiction)

The

Serpent King "Dill isn't the most popular kid at his rural Tennessee high school. After his father fell from grace in a public scandal, Dill became a target. Fortunately, his two fellow misfits and best friends have his back. But as they begin their senior year, Dill feels the coils of his future tightening around him. His only escapes are music and his secret feelings for Lydia--neither of which he is brave enough to share. But even before then, he must cope with another ending--one that will rock his life to the core. " ~Publisher's Summary

Name _____ Date _____



Notes on *The Outsider* by S.E. Hinton

Setting: Where and when did the story take place?

Describe a memorable character from the book, Choose **a quote or two** from the text that reveals important qualities about this character.

Describe how a character in your book overcame adversity/hardship. In what ways did the character overcome this challenge or hardship? Be specific.

In your opinion, what is the most important theme of the book? What message does the author send through writing this book? Write about **three (3) specific examples** from the story that support that theme.?

Most important theme: _____

Example 1. _____

Example 2. _____

Example 3. _____

Write down three (3) facts about the author. This information can be found on the book jacket or on the Internet.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

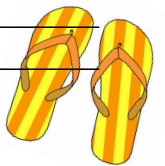
Devise three **(3) questions** that you would like to ask the author, S.E. Hinton that cannot be answered by reading the book-”deeper” questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Did the book satisfy your expectations? Please describe what you liked about it and what you did not like about it. Be specific.



NOTE: In September, you will be completing an in-class project based on the Outsiders. Therefore, make sure your notes are sufficiently detailed so you can complete the assignment. We also look forward to having a class discussion with you about The Outsiders after summer vacation. See you in September!



