

GRADE 8 – 2010 SUMMER READING LIST

FICTION

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Fever 1973

Fever 1793 is about a teenage girl named Matilda a.k.a. Mattie who faces difficulty and fights for her life during the times of Yellow fever.

Bradbury, Jennifer

Shift

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

Burg, Ann

All the Broken Pieces

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Clippinger, Carol

Open Court

A thirteen-year-old tennis prodigy grapples with her seemingly incompatible desires to be an exceptional athlete and a normal teenager.

Coy, John

Crackback

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.

Crowe, Chris

Mississippi Trail, 1955

In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago.

Dessen, Sarah

Lock & Key

When she is abandoned by her alcoholic mother, high school senior Ruby winds up living with Cora, the sister she has not seen for ten years, and learns about Cora's new life, what makes a family, how to allow people to help her when she needs it, and that she too has something to offer others.

Deuker, Carl

Gym Candy

Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick Johnson, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, despite the consequences to his health and social life.

Grimes, Nikki

Bronx Masquerade

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, (open mike) revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Fast, Howard

April Morning

When you read this novel about April 19, 1775, you will see the British redcoats marching in a solid column through your town. Your hands will be sweating and you will shake a little as you grip your musket because never have you shot with the aim of killing a man.

Henry, April

Shock Point

Fifteen-year-old Cassie Streng is determined to expose her stepfather after learning that he is giving a dangerous experimental drug to his teenaged psychiatric patients, but he sends her to a boot camp for troubled teens in Mexico in order to keep her quiet.

Hinton, S.E.

Tex

Tex himself, being 15 and angry at his brother for selling his horse to pay the bills, and in love with the cutest girl in school, and wondering if his father cares about him, is pretty daring, maybe even foolish. Though this lands him in a lot of trouble at school, it also helps him grow and put things in perspective.

Jaffe, Michelle

Bad Kitty

While vacationing with her family in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Jasmine stumbles upon a murder mystery that she attempts to solve with the help of her other friends, recently arrived from California.

Jordan, Sherryl

Raging Quiet

Suspicious of sixteen-year-old Marnie, a newcomer to their village, the residents accuse her of witchcraft when she discovers that the village madman is not crazy but deaf and she begins to communicate with him through hand gestures.

#Koertge, Ronald

Shakespeare Bats Cleanup

When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss. (Novels in Verse)

Korman, Gordon

Juvie Three

Gecko, Arjay, and Terence, all in trouble with the law, must find a way to keep their halfway house open in order to stay out of juvenile detention.

Lowry, Lois

Gathering Blue

Having suffered numerous unnamed disasters (aka, the Ruin), civilization has regressed to a primitive, technology-free state; an opening author's note describes a society in which "disorder, savagery, and self-interest" rule. Kira, a crippled young weaver, has been raised and taught her craft by her mother, after her father was allegedly killed by "beasts."

Lubar, David

Sleeping Freshman Never Lie

While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.

#Mazer, Harry

A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor (and sequels)

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and realizes his father is serving on the USS Arizona.

McClintock, Norah

Taken

While she is walking home from school Stephanie is grabbed from behind, drugged, and taken to a secret cabin in the woods where she tries to escape her captor and make her way to safety.

McCormick, Patricia

Purple Heart

While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

McNamee, Graham

Acceleration

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him.

Morpurgo, Michael

Private Peaceful

When Thomas Peaceful's older brother is forced to join the British Army, Thomas decides to sign up as well, although he is only fourteen years old, to prove himself to his country, his family, his childhood love, Molly, and himself.

Morris, Paula

Ruined

Rebecca moves to New Orleans to stay with her aunt in a scary old house 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 Rebecca's own history.

Pearson, Mary

Adoration of Jenna Fox

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Price, Charlie

Dead Connection

A loner who communes with the dead in the town cemetery hears the voice of a murdered cheerleader and tries to convince the adults that he knows what happened to her.

Richter, Conrad

The Light in The Forest

John Cameron Butler was captured by the Lenne Lenape Indians. He has since been adopted by the Indians, who named him True Son, and has grown to love the only family he has ever known, as well as the ways of his people. But now it's 1765 and in order to make a land deal, the Lenne Lenape and other tribes have agreed to return all their captives to the white Army, including now-15-year-old True Son/John.

Sharenow, Rob

My Mother the Cheerleader

Thirteen-year-old Louise uncovers secrets about her family and her neighborhood during the violent protests over school desegregation in 1960 New Orleans.

Shusterman, Neal

Unwind

Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

Slade, Arthur G

Dust

Eleven-year-old Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

Smith, Roland

Elephant Run

Nick endures servitude, beatings, and more after his British father's plantation in Burma is invaded by the Japanese in 1941, and when his father and others are taken prisoner and Nick is stranded with his friend Mya, they plan a daring escape on elephants, risking their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Sonnenblick, Jordan

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie (and sequels)

When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

Sorrells, Walter

First Shot

As David enters his senior year of high school, a family secret emerges that could solve the mystery of why his mother was murdered two years ago.

Sparks, Nicholas

Last Song

Seventeen-year-old Ronnie Miller is resentful when her mother insists she and her ten-year-old brother spend the summer with their estranged father in North Carolina, and while things get off to a rocky start, Ronnie eventually makes friends and begins to better understand her dad and why he wanted her to visit.

#Springer, Nancy

Blood Trail

After his best friend is murdered, seventeen-year-old Booger realizes he is the only one who has any idea who might have committed the crime – but he doesn't dare tell anyone.

Tharp, Tim

Knights of the Hill Country

In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Greene finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football.

Vande Velde, Vivian

Heir Apparent

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Westerfeld, Scott

Uglies

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

Wulffson, DonL.

Soldier X

In 1943 sixteen-year-old Erik experiences the horrors of war when he is drafted into the German army and sent to fight on the Russian front.

Zevin, Gabrielle

Elsewhere

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

NON-FICTION

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow

A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.

Callahan, Steven Adrift: Seventy-six Days Lost at Sea

The author recounts how he survived being adrift in a rubber raft in the Pacific ocean for 76 days after his sloop sank.

Freedman, Russell The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights

Tells the life story of singer Marian Anderson, describing her famous 1939 Lincoln Memorial performance and explaining how she helped end segregation in the American arts after being refused the right to perform at Washington's Constitution Hall because of the color of her skin.

Gore, Al An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming

An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously. Includes photographs, maps, and graphs.

Gourley, Catherine Ms. & The Material Girls

Prologue: The women's strike for equality, August 26, 1970, - Who took the "r" out of "Mrs."? - Bionic women and real-life heroines - From denial to indulgence: the body obsession - The material world, or welcome to the 1980's - Guerrilla girls and other militant females march into the 1990's - Epilogue: The girl power revolution.

Gourley, Catherine Rosie and Mrs. America

Explores how images in the media, including magazine advertisements and mail order catalogs, influenced how women saw themselves and helped them to be both fashionable and frugal in the 1930's and 1940's.

Hoose, Phillip M. We Were There Too!: Young People in U.S. History

Biography of dozens of young people who made a mark in American history, including explorers, planters, spies, cowpunchers, sweatshop workers, and civil rights workers.

Krakauer, Jon Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster

A definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest.

Lawlor, Laurie Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirit

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.

McWhorter, Diane

A Dream of Freedom

Examines the lives and times of the southern states and its people during the civil rights struggle for equality for African Americans in the 1950's and 60's and includes other civil rights facts.

Myers, Walter Dean *The Greatest Muhammad Ali*

A biography of the famous boxer.

Nelson, Peter

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis

Recalls the sinking of the USS Indianapolis at the end of WWII, the navy cover-up and unfair court martial of the ship's captain, and how a young boy helped the survivor set the record straight fifty-five years later.

Oppenheim, Joanne

Dear Miss Breed

True stories of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II and a librarian who made a difference.

Easier Read