

8th Grade Summer Reading List

You have quite a bit of choice for summer reading. For each book that you read, you will receive 5 points – for a maximum of 25 points (5 books). You must also log your reading. You must log when you read the book, and it must be evident on your log that you read it from the beginning to the end. At least 2 of the books you choose must be from the reading list provided, one of which must be a memoir; the other books are of your choice

Required:

- **1 book from the memoir list**
- **1 book from the general list**
- **Up to 3 more of your choice** - be sure to choose age appropriate books
- **You should have read a total of 5 books in order to receive a 100.**

With each book that you read, you must complete 1 journal entry, which has three parts. If you read a fiction book, you will be asked to write about the theme, make a prediction, and describe the character development of the main character. If the book is nonfiction, you will be asked to journal a summary, connection, and the event's affect on the world. **Each journal entry is worth 15 points. *You may not go to the next book without completing the book before and doing your journal entries***

Rubric:

# of Books Read	Grade for # of Books Read	Grade with Books and Journals Completed
5	85	100
4	65	80
3	45	60
2	25	40
1	5	20
0	0	0

****Bonus Points**** (You may do the following to receive bonus points)

- 5 points for having or getting a library card
- 5 points, with a maximum of 15 points (total of 3 books), per book that you donate to your language arts classroom library
- 15 points for reading one extra book with journal entry

The Journal Entries

The journal entries must be 3 to 5 sentences or no credit will be received. Each entry must fully explain how each element was present in the book. You should give specific examples from the book.

Here are a few examples to show you exactly the kind of quality entry you should have.

Examples:

Prediction: I predict that Dally is going to do something to endanger himself. I think this because he left the hospital upset and took a gun with him. The author used this to foreshadow something bad to happen.

Character Development: Ponyboy is a dynamic character. I know this because of the way his thoughts changed throughout the book. Ponyboy was a dreamer, he wanted more, but by the end, he was convinced that he would always be a Greaser.

Your Journal entries should be your best written work. It should be neat and free from most grammatical errors in order to receive full credit.

Summer reading assignments will be due August 13, 2010

What to turn in:

- 5 journal entries, each with three parts – 3-5 sentences each, neatly written and free from grammatical error
 - Logged hours of reading
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General List (Choose One)

Treasure Island - by Robert Lewis Stevenson.

First published over a century ago, this extraordinary tale of long-lost treasure and revenge remains one of the most memorable in classic literature. In this unabridged gift edition, two-time Caldecott Medal-winning illustrators Leo and Diane Dillon capture perfectly the grandeur, beauty and perils of Captain Nemo's underwater world.

A Walk Across America - Peter Jenkins (**Nonfiction**)

In this unusual travel book disillusioned Peter Jenkins sets off with his dog Cooper to walk across America and learns timeless secrets of life and living from the unique people he meets.

Whirlgig – Paul Fleischman

Brian travels to four corners of the US to build a whirligig in memory of a girl he killed while driving drunk.

Baseball in April – Gary Soto

In this unique collection of short stories, the small events of daily life reveal big themes-- love and friendship, youth and growing up, success and failure. Calling on his own experiences of growing up in California's Central Valley, poet Gary Soto brings to life the joys and pains of young people everywhere. The smart, tough, vulnerable kids in these stories are Latino, but their dreams and desires belong to all of us.

**Beyond the Burning Time - Kathryn Lasky.

The events of 1692 are described with passion and rich detail. Mary and her mother don't hear rumors at first about the strange happenings in Salem, but when Mary's mother is accused of witchcraft, Mary and her brother, Caleb, must decide what to do. Are the villagers right, or is she innocent? Can they help her escape before it is too late?

**Stargirl - Jerry Spinelli.

In his story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High forever.

Where the Red Fern Grows - Wilson Rawls.

Billy, Old Dan and Little Ann -- a boy and his two dogs, 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 train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. An exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll.

One of the most celebrated children's books of all time. Alice's tumble down a rabbit hole is brought to life with the familiar cast of characters (Alice, the White Rabbit, the Dodo, the White Hare, the Cheshire Cat, the Dormouse, the Hatter, the Queen and King, the Mock Turtle, the Gryphon). Children who have been accustomed to the Disney version of this classic will be curious, confused yet amazed by what they read and see in this book.

Memoirs (Choose One)

Rosa Parks: My Story – Rosa Parks

Written in her own straightforward and moving words, Rosa Parks' compelling life story reveals the deliberate choices she made that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

My Thirteenth Winter – Samantha Abeel

Samantha Abeel couldn't tell time, remember her locker combination, or count out change at a checkout counter -- and she was in seventh grade. For a straight-A student like Samantha, problems like these made no sense. She dreaded school, and began having anxiety attacks. In her thirteenth winter, she found the courage to confront her problems - - and was diagnosed with a learning disability. Slowly, Samantha's life began to change again. She discovered that she was stronger than she'd ever thought possible -- and that sometimes, when things look bleakest, hope is closer than you think.

Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust – Ruth Gruener

Pretty, carefree Aurelia Gamsler (known today as Ruth Gruener) had an idyllic life in 1930s Poland -- until violent acts of anti-Semitism and the deportation of Jewish families to concentration camps changed everything in her world. Hiding out with a gentile family, her very life at risk every day, Ruth struggled to remain strong and sane. And though she was destined to live, her struggle continued after the war, when she began a new life in America, as a teenager who had been through horrors. This memoir will inspire countless readers and bestow important lessons about life, hope, and memory.

Jackie's Nine – Sharon Robinson

In a tribute to baseball legend and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson, his daughter Sharon guides readers through the nine values that helped Jackie Robinson achieve his goals. Ms. Robinson explores these values - courage, determination, commitment, persistence, integrity, teamwork, excellence, citizenship, and justice - through Jackie's own powerful words and the writings of many other heroes and pioneers. Includes photographs from the family archive add to the inspirational message.

Parallel Journeys - Eleanor Ayer with Helen Waterford and Alfons Heck (**Nonfiction**)

A survivor of Auschwitz and a member of the Hitler Youth recount their war experiences, and recount how they met forty years later.

**My Forbidden Face: Growing up under the Taliban: a Young Woman's Story - Latifa

Born into a middle-class Afghan family in Kabul in 1980, Latifa had a conventional childhood. Then, Taliban soldiers seized power in Kabul. And from that moment, Latifa, just sixteen, became a prisoner in her own home. The simplest and most basic freedoms were forbidden. She was forced to put on a chadri, the state-mandated uniform that covered her entire body. Disbelief at having to hide herself was soon replaced by fear, the fear of being whipped or stoned like women she'd seen. My Forbidden Face provides a moving and highly personal account of life under the Taliban regime. With painful honesty and clarity, Latifa describes her ordered world falling apart, in the name of a fanaticism that she could not comprehend, and replaced by a world where terror and oppression reign.

**** May have mature content – parental guidance suggested**