

8th Grade Summer Reading List

All students will read: *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay (Young Readers' Condensed Edition). Students must read two additional books (and at least one of them MUST be from this list):

Fiction

Aronson, Marc. *Robert F. Kennedy: A Twentieth-Century Life.* This is a behind-the-scenes glimpse at how the “runt” of a wealthy and powerful political family came to represent the poor in the race for the Presidency in the late 1960s.

Carter, Ally. *Heist Society.* A group of teenagers uses its combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save fifteen-year-old Kat Bishop's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector. **Series**

Colfer, Eoin. *Airman.* In the late nineteenth century on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king. He is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design and build.

Cooney, Caroline. *Diamonds in the Shadow.* The Amabo family, refugees from a tyrannical regime in an African country, is beginning to adjust to its new life with a good-hearted American family—even as another African refugee is pursuing a dangerous course that will impact both families.

Courtenay, Bryce. *The Power of One.* Follows Peekay, a white British boy in South Africa during World War II, between the ages of five and eleven, as he survives an abusive boarding school and goes on to succeed in life and the boxing ring, with help from a chicken, a boxer, a pianist, black African prisoners, and many others.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge.* Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Evangelista, Beth. *Gifted.* Arrogant, mentally gifted George is dreading the 8th grade class camping trip, but a hurricane and a friend's loyalty make him realize what is important.

Feinstein, John. *Vanishing Act.* Eighth grade sports reporters Susan, Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships where they investigate the disappearance of a top Russian player.

Fleischman, Sid. *Sir Charlie Chaplin: The Funniest Man in the World.* Charlie Chaplin, who was raised by a mentally ill mother and an alcoholic, mostly absent, father, spent his childhood in the depths of poverty but grew to international fame as perhaps “the funniest man in the world” in vaudeville, silent movies, and finally “talkies” at the end of his career.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Red Umbrella.* Fourteen-year old Lucia's comfortable life in Cuba in 1961 ends when communists take control of the country and Lucia and her younger brother are sent by their parents to the U.S. where they end up with a foster family in Nebraska and must adapt to a new language and way of life.

Gordon, Sheila. *Waiting for the Rain: a Novel of South Africa.* Chronicles nine years in the lives of two South African youths— one black, one white--as their friendship ends in a violent confrontation between student and soldier.

Hesse, Karen *Stowaway.* A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook.

Hinton, Nigel. *Time Bomb.* It's 1949 and Andy and his friends are embittered after enduring injustice at their English school. They deal with thoughts of revenge and several life-changing secrets.

Hobbs, Will *Leaving Protection.* Sixteen-year-old Robbie Daniels, happy to get a job on a fishing boat trolling for salmon off Alaska, finds himself in danger when he discovers that his mysterious captain is searching for long-buried Russian plaques that lay claim to Alaska and the northwest.

Horowitz, Anthony. *Nightrise.* After telepathic twins Jamie and Scott are attacked by the evil Nightrise Corporation, one of them is imprisoned while the other escapes and is left to fight with the other three gatekeepers against the evil Old Ones in order to save his sibling and prevent the destruction of humanity.

Series

Howe, Norma. *The Adventures of Blue Avenger.* On his sixteenth birthday, David Schumacher decides--or does he?--to change his name to Blue Avenger, hoping to find a way to make a difference in his Oakland neighborhood and in the world.

Hughes, Mark Peter. *Lemonade Mouth*. A group of high school outcasts meet in detention form a band to play at a school talent show, and end up competing with a wildly popular local rock band.

Kelleher, Victor. *Dogboy* Given to the Great Father on the night of his birth, Boy is raised by a dog in a village whose people barely tolerate him despite signs that he is favored, then travels far, striving to find his place in the brutal world of humans.

Kidd, Ronald. *Monkey Town: the Summer of the Scopes Trial*. When her father hatches a plan to bring publicity to the town by arresting a local high school teacher for teaching evolution, the resulting 1925 Scopes trial prompts 15-year-old Frances to rethink many of her beliefs about religion and truth, as well as her relationship with her father.

Korman, Gordon. *Pop*. Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.--8

Lisle, Janet Taylor. *Black Duck*. Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friends' family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-smuggling trade.

Lubar, David. *Sleeping Freshmen 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 skill as a writer.

Mead, Alice. *Dawn and Dusk* As thirteen-year-old Azad tries to cling to the life he has known, the political situation in Iran during the war with Iraq finally forces his family to flee their home and seek safety elsewhere.

Morpurgo, Michael. *The War of Jenkins' Ear*. Toby Jenkins friendship with an unusual new boy who claims to be Jesus makes life at boarding school somewhat more tolerable, even when conflict arise between the students and the boys from the town.

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.

Nelson, Peter. *Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis* Fifty years after the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis at the end of World War II, a young boy helps the survivors set the record straight, bringing to light the Navy cover-up and an unfair court-martial of the ship's captain.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*. Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an enormous airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures and to fight pirates. **Series**

Sachar, Louis. *The Cardturner: A Novel About a Queen, a King, and a Joker*. When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative. Includes appendix by Syd Fox with information about bridge.

Salisbury, Graham. *Eyes of the Emperor*. Eddy Okubo, a high school graduate at age sixteen, volunteers for the army a few weeks prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and soon finds himself—along with his friends of Japanese descent—isolated from the rest of the army, humiliated repeatedly, and shipped off to the Gulf Coast.

Smith, Roland. *The Cryptid Hunters*. Twins Grace and Marty, along with a mysterious uncle, are dropped into the middle of the Congolese jungle in search of their missing photojournalist parents.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Milkweed*. In Nazi-occupied Warsaw, a young orphan realizes the safest person to be is nobody.

Stroud, Jonathan. *Heroes of the Valley*. Halli Sveinsson, a mischievous young man who does not fit in with his peers and siblings, plays a trick on Ragnor that goes too far, forcing Halli to embark on a hero's quest in which he will face highway robbers, monsters, an intriguing girl, and truths about his family and the legends he grew up with.

Swanson, James L. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. This is a nail-biting and detailed telling of the assassination of Lincoln and all the accompanying chaos of the struggle to catch his killer.

Tullson, Diane. *Red Sea*. Fourteen year old Libby is left alone on a crippled boat with her injured mother after pirates attack them and kill her stepfather.

Warren, Andrea. *Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps*. At age fifteen, Jack Mandelbaum was placed in a Nazi concentration camp and managed to overcome intolerable conditions in order to avoid becoming a victim of Hitler's "Final Solution."

Westerfeld, Scott. *So Yesterday*. Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

Zusak, Markus. *I Am the Messenger*. After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

Fantasy/ Science Fiction

Adams, Douglas. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Join Douglas Adams's hapless hero Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway.

Almond, David. *Clay*. The developing relationship between the teenager Davie and a mysterious new boy in town morphs into something darker and more sinister when Davie learns firsthand of the boy's supernatural powers.

Clarke, Susanna. *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*. It's 1808 and that Corsican upstart Napoleon is battering the English army and navy. Enter Mr. Norrell, a fusty but ambitious scholar from the Yorkshire countryside and the first practical magician in hundreds of years. What better way to demonstrate his revival of British magic than to change the course of the Napoleonic wars?

Clement-Davies, David. *The Telling Pool*. Relying on true courage and true love, as well as some surprising connections to the Arthurian legends, a young Welsh teenager named Rhodri embarks on a quest to remove an ancient curse from Great Britain during the reign of Richard the Lionheart.

Crichton, Michael. *Timeline*. When you step into a time machine, fax yourself through a "quantum foam wormhole," and step out in feudal France circa 1357, be very, very afraid

Nix, Garth. *Abhorsen*. Abhorsen-In-Waiting Lirael and Prince Sameth, a Wallmaker, must confront and bind the evil spirit Oranis before it can destroy all life.

Patterson, James. *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*. A breathless action tale about young people with wings who must battle evil Erasers – half-men, half-wolves – when one of their "flock" is kidnapped. First in a trilogy.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Taylor, G.P. *Shadowmancer*. When Obadiah Demurral, the power-hungry vicar of Thorpe, attempts to become a god by dabbling in magic, Raphah joins forces with Kate and Thomas to stop him.

Willis, Connie. *To Say Nothing of the Dog, or, How We Found the Bishop's Bird Stump at Last*. In search of a hideous Victorian artifact, time-travel historian Ned Henry winds up on the Thames River in the 1890s. He goes through endless hilarious mishaps and adventures to try to find the artifact and repair a problem in the time travel net.

Memoir

Herriot, James. *All Creatures Great and Small*. An English veterinarian reminisces about his life, career, and animal patients in a small village.

Hickham, Homer. *Rocket Boys (Also called October Sky)*. In 1957, in the dying small town of Coalwood, West Virginia, Homer Hickam dreams of sending rockets into outer space. With the help of some misfit friends, he starts to make his dreams come true.

Akbar, Said Hyder *Come Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story*

Classics

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. What's the truth behind the legend of the hound of the Baskervilles?

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*. Jim Hawkins matches wits with ruthless pirates who will stop at nothing to get their treasure.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Kidnapped*.

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Relates the adventures of the boy Tom Sawyer and his friends in a small town on the Mississippi River during the nineteenth century.

Verne, Jules. *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. A scientist and his assistant experience remarkable events as they search for the passageway to the core of the earth.

Graphic Novels

Busiek, Kurt. *Shockrockets: We Have Ignition*. Young Alejandro is the newest pilot for an elite squadron of aerial fighters protecting Earth in 2087 AD in this thrilling graphic novel.

Nonfiction

Al-Windawi, Thura. *Thura's Diary : My Life in Wartime Iraq*. Nineteen-year-old Thura al-Windawi kept a diary during the conflict in Iraq, saying that it was her way of "controlling the chaos." The diary, which documents the days leading up to the bombings, the war itself, and the lawless aftermath, puts a personal face on life in Baghdad. As Thura describes her life and that of her two younger sisters, she shows readers the many small details that illuminate the reality of war for Iraqi families, and especially for Iraqi children.

Armstrong, Lance. *It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life*. When Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer, the prognosis was not encouraging. When it spread to his lungs and brain, most medical professionals gave up hope for his recovery. But not Lance.

Bangs, Richard, *The Lost River : A Memoir of Life, Death, and Transformation on Wild Water*. In the early 1970s, in a quest to run the last unexplored rivers of Africa, two young men drowned: one a client on his first river expedition; the other Richard Bangs' rafting partner and best friend, Lew Greenwald. Bangs and Greenwald, who had pioneered several wild rivers in Africa, shared a goal to raft Ethiopia's unrun Tekeze, but Greenwald's death and the country's political turmoil made the dream impossible. Twenty-three years later, Bangs returned with survivors of the earlier expeditions to complete what was left undone--to run the Tekeze.

Richard Bangs *Mystery of the Nile*

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

Bradley, James. *Flags of our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima*. In this unforgettable chronicle of perhaps the most famous moment in American military history, James Bradley has captured the glory, the triumph, the heartbreak, and the legacy of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima.

Bryson, Bill. *In a Sunburned Country*. The author's exploits in Australia, where A-bombs go off unnoticed, prime ministers disappear into the surf, and cheery citizens coexist with the world's deadliest creatures: toxic caterpillars, aggressive seashells, crocodiles, sharks, snakes, and the deadliest of them all, the dreaded box jellyfish. And that's just the beginning. boat with a six man crew headed towards the storm's hellish center.

Caputo, Philip *10,000 Days of Thunder*.

Childers, Thomas. *Wings of Morning: Story of the Last American Bomber Shot Down Over Germany in World War II*. The story of the twelve-member Black Cat flight team, which conducted one of the last air missions over Europe of World War II, attempts to find out what happened to the ten men who were lost on April 25, 1945

Cookman, Scott. *Ice Blink: The Tragic Fate of Sir John Franklin's Lost Polar Expedition*. Ice Blink (the name sailors gave the haunting mirages formed by reflections off pack ice) probes one of the most enduring mysteries in the annals of exploration--the baffling disappearance of the largest, best-equipped expedition of its day.

Crutcher, Chris. *King of the Mild Frontier*. Chris Crutcher, author of young adult novels such as "Ironman" and "Whale Talk," as well as short stories, tells of growing up in Cascade, Idaho, and becoming a writer.

Dorbin, Ann E. *Saving the Bay: People Working for the Future of the Chesapeake*

Feinstein, John. *Next Man Up : A Year Behind the Lines in Today's NFL*.

Hakim, Joy. *Aristotle Leads the Way*. Hakim traces the evolution of astronomy, math, and physics from Ancient Sumer to the Renaissance. Setting science into historical, cultural, and biographical context, Hakim explains not only how science evolved, but why theories evolved when and where they did.

Hersey, John, *Hiroshima*. "A new edition with a final chapter written forty years after the explosion." The story of six people who lived through the explosion of the atomic bomb in 1945 in Hiroshima.

Heyerdahl, Thor. *Aku-Aku : The Secret of Easter Island*.

Hoose, Phillip M. *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*. Tells the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker's extinction in the United States, describing the encounters between this species and humans, and discussing what these encounters have taught us about preserving endangered creatures.

Hal Iggulden *The Dangerous Book for Boys*.

Adamson, Joy. *Born Free*.

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm : A True Story of Men Against the Sea*. The story of a nor'easter with waves ten stories high and winds of 120 miles an hour, and of the Andrea Gail, a commercial fishing boat. Jon Krakauer Into Thin Air

Robert Kraske *Marooned: the Strange But True Adventures of Alexander Selkirk*.

Lawlor, Laurie. *Magnificent Voyage : An American Adventurer on Captain James Cook's Final Expedition*. Based on the writings of John Ledyard, an American cook on the ship Resolution, tells of explorer James Cook's final voyage in search of the Northwest Passage, discovery of the Hawaiian Islands, and murder.

O'Grady, Scott. *Basher five-Two : The True Story of F-16 Fighter Pilot Captain Scott O'Grady*.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex*. This Nantucket ship, destroyed by a sperm whale attack in 1820, was the real-life inspiration for Herman Melville's classic, *Moby Dick*.

Preston, Richard. *The Hot Zone*. The horrifying true story of an Ebola virus outbreak in a Washington, D.C. lab.

Eric Schlosser *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*.

Stoll, Clifford. *Cuckoo's Egg: Tracking a Spy Through the Maze of Computer Espionage*. Searching for a hacker, Stoll began a one-man hunt, spying on the spy—and plunging into an incredible international probe that finally gained the attention of top U.S. counter-intelligence agents.