

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## 2023 Summer Reading For Students Entering Grade 8



Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Summer is here and we have made it through a fantastic year! Many of you are looking forward to a well-deserved break from typical schoolwork, but summer is still a great time to learn, wonder and be curious through BOOKS! Please continue to read for **20 minutes most** days throughout the summer. Reading is the single best way to learn about the world, yourselves, and each other! Summer reading will help you keep your skills sharp so you will be ready when school begins again in the fall.

All students entering grade 8 are expected to read at least 2 books over the summer. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teachers would like **one** of the titles to be from the list below on the theme of **overcoming obstacles**. You should be prepared to discuss what you have read, learned, and discovered and will earn a participation grade based on thoughtful conversations as you get to know your new classmates as readers, writers & thinkers.

Please keep a record of the books you read; your 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher will give you a form to log your titles during the 1<sup>st</sup> few days of school.

Wherever your summer days take you, bring along a good book and read, read, read!

Karen MacKinnon  
K-8 ELA, SS, Title I Curriculum Director



## Required Reading Title List for Entering Grade 8 Students

[Select one title from the below list]

### ***Themes of Overcoming Obstacles***

#### **Fiction:**

***Stand Tall*** by Jane Bauer  
***Inside Out and Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai  
***The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander  
***Counting By 7's*** by Holly Goldberg Sloan  
***Stitches*** by Glen Huser  
***Ungifted*** by Gordon Korman  
***El Deafo*** by Cece Bell  
***Lions of Little Rock*** by Kristin Levine  
***The Benefits of Being an Octopus*** by Ann Braden  
***Maybe He Just Likes You*** by Barbara Dee  
***New Kid*** by Jerry Craft  
***A Good Kind of Trouble*** by Lisa Ramée Moore  
***And We Stay*** by Jenny Hubbard  
***Lost Girl Found*** by Leah Bassoff and Laura Deluca  
***Everything, Everything*** by Nicola Yoon  
***Untwine*** by Edwidge Danticat  
***Ask the Passengers*** by A.S. King  
***The House You Pass on the Way*** by Jacqueline Woodson

#### **Nonfiction:**

***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*** by Phillip Hoose  
***Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible on Schindler's List*** by Leon Leyson and Marilyn J. Harran  
***Witches! Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem*** by Rosalyn Schanzer  
***I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*** by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick  
***Ten Days a Madwoman: Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "girl" Reporter, Nellie Bly*** by Deborah Noyes  
***Out of Order: Young Adult Manual of Mental Illness and Recovery*** by Dale Bick Carlson  
***The Courage to Compete: Living with Cerebral Palsy and Following My Dreams*** by Abbey Curran  
***The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-year-old Boy with Autism*** by Naoki Higashida  
***Turning Fifteen on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March*** by Lynda Blackmon Lowery  
***The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in The Streets*** by Gayle E. Pitman  
***Chasing King's Killer*** by James L. Swanson

## ***Additional Suggested Titles for Students Entering Grade 8***

### **Fiction:**

*Kira, Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata  
*Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements  
*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick  
*Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpia* or *Ark Angle* from the Alex Rider Series  
*Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech  
*Witness* by Karen Hesse  
*The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen  
*Let the Circle Be Unbroken, The Land, or The Road to Memphis* by Mildred D. Taylor  
*Stargirl, Milkweed, or Love* by Jerry Spinelli  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
*Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston  
*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed  
*Rules of the Road* by Joan Bauer  
*First Test* (Protector of the Small Series) by Tamora Pierce  
*Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry  
*The Golden Compass* or sequels: *Amber Spyglass* or *Subtle Knife* by Philip Pullman  
*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, Vanishing Act or Cover Up* by John Feinstein

### **Non-Fiction:**

*Guts: The True Story behind Hatchet and the Brian Books* by Gary Paulsen  
*The Teammates: A Portrait of Friendship* by David Halberstam  
*Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World* by Pénélope Bagieu  
*The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui  
*Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

*Letters in the Attic* by Bonnie Shimko  
*Penny from Heaven* by Jennifer L. Holm  
*Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhoads  
*Surviving the Applewhites* by Stephanie S. Tolan  
*Totally Joe* by James Howe  
*The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore  
*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (or sequel novels)* by Ann Brashares  
*Call of the Wild or White Fang* by Jack London  
*Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* by Pablo Cartaya  
*Canyons, The Island, Winter Room, Tracker, Voyage the Frog or Foxman* by Gary Paulsen  
*A Break with Charity, Fifth of March, Secret of Sarah Reeve or Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons* by Ann Rinaldi  
*Quarterback Walk-on, Infield Hit, Game Plan, Halfback Tough or Rookie Arrives* by Thomas J. Dygard  
*The Thief Lord or Inkheart* by Cornelia Funke  
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas  
*See You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng

*Proud: Living My American Dream* by Ibtihaj Muhammed  
*Ginger Kid: Mostly True Tales from a Former Nerd* by Steve Hofstetter  
*Grand Theft Horse* by Greg Neri  
*Light Filters in: Poems* by Caroline Kaufman  
*Mary's Monster: Love Madness and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein* by Lita Judge