

## Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading: US Program

### Reading Requirements

You are required to read **three books** this summer, although you are always encouraged to read more! Choose at least one book from the list on the following pages.

In addition, you must also read two other books of your choice. When choosing books on your own, try to choose a book that captivates your attention and is appropriately challenging. You may choose a book of any genre.

### Required Reading Assignments

#### **Assignment #1: One Pager**

Create a one pager on the book that you select from the required reading list. You will find detailed directions in this packet

#### **Assignment #2: Alternate Book Cover**

For a book of your choice, create an alternate book cover, complete with an alternate title, symbolic original images, and intentional design. You may create your new book cover by hand or digitally, but your work must be original. If you're feeling stuck, look at some of your favorite books and notice what choices the author, illustrator, and publisher made to attract your attention. Write one paragraph explaining the choices you made. Your description must be detailed, thoughtful, and 6-8 sentences long.

#### **\*Assignment #3: Optional Challenge Assignment**

This year, we have designed an optional challenge assignment for each grade. This is not a required summer reading assignment; however, it is encouraged for those students who have excelled in English Language Arts this year. Any student can choose to complete the challenge assignment.

#### **New Epilogue**

Write a new final chapter for the book they have read. This new ending should provide a different conclusion to the story while staying true to the established characters, setting, and themes. ● Begin with a clear opening that transitions smoothly from the preceding chapter. ● Develop the plot logically, maintaining consistency with the rest of the book. ● Stay true to the characters' personalities and voices.

- Use descriptive language and dialogue to enhance the narrative.
- Conclude the chapter with a satisfying resolution that ties up loose ends  
OR design a new cliffhanger that will compel readers to read an imaginary sequel.

*All of your summer work is due during your first week back to school. Do not worry about turning in your assignment before school begins. Your teacher will give you*

more information when you return. Good luck and read lots of books!

### 8th Grade Reader's Choice Book List

Title	Author	Summary	Genre	Common Sense Media Age Rating
<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>	Agatha Christie	A man is found dead on the luxurious overnight train, with his door locked from the inside. Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, must solve the crime before the murderer strikes again.	Mystery	13+
<i>Dread Nation</i>	Justina Ireland	Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, ending the Civil War and changing the United States forever. In this new America, African Americans and Native Americans are required to attend combat schools to learn to put down the dead.	Horror/ Historical Fiction	Ages 13+
<i>The Fountains of Silence</i>	Ruta Sepetys	In the summer of 1957, Spain is under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco and its citizens are terrified of resisting their leader and his cruel regime. Meanwhile, tourists and foreign businessmen flood into the country, including eighteen-year-old Daniel, the son of an oil tycoon. He soon meets Ana, whose family is grappling with the impact of living during the Spanish Civil War.	Historical Fiction	Ages 13+
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	This collection of free verse poems tells the story of Jacqueline Woodson's childhood, split between Ohio, South Carolina, and New York City. Her poems reflect what it was like for a young African American girl to grow up in the shadow of the Civil Rights Movement, as well as the beginnings of her aspirations to be a writer.	Autobiography / Poetry	Ages 10+

<i>Scythe</i>	Neal Shusterman	In a world with no famine, disease, or war, two teens, Citra and Rowan, are selected to apprentice to a scythe. 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. Throughout the story, Citra and Rowan must master the art of killing to maintain the “perfect world” in which they exist.	Dystopian/ Science Fiction	Ages 12+
<i>Loving Vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case</i>	Patricia Hruby Powell	In 1955, in Caroline County, Virginia, amidst segregation and prejudice, injustice and cruelty, two teenagers fell in love. Their life together broke the law, but their determination would change it.	Historical Fiction/Free Verse Poetry	Ages 12+
<i>The Sun is Also a Star</i>	Nicola Yoon	Two teenagers meet and fall for each other on one day in New York City. Sparks immediately fly between these two strangers, who might never have met had fate not given them a little push. With just hours left on the clock in what looks to be her last day in the U.S., Natasha is fighting against her family's deportation just as fiercely as she's fighting her growing feelings for Daniel.	Realistic Fiction	Ages 14+
<i>Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (YA Edition)</i>	Trevor Noah	Trevor Noah recounts the experience of having a black African mother and white European father during a time when interracial relationships were illegal in South Africa. Noah navigates through a childhood filled with poverty, discrimination, and uncertainty as a biracial person who does not know where he fits in under a racially stratified government. His storytelling is honest, poignant, and full of humor.	Biography	Ages 11+