

**2016 Summer Reading Requirements
For Students Entering Grade 8**



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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Summer is here and many students are looking forward to a break from schoolwork, but summer is not a time to take a break from reading! **Research tells us that when students don't read for two months their skills regress.** Research done at Harvard University by James Kim has shown that even reading 4 or 5 books over the summer helps to prevent the summer slide. Reading is a skill which requires practice, just like baseball or playing an instrument. Summer reading helps students of all ages keep their skills sharp so they are ready when school begins again in the fall.

All students are expected to read a minimum of **AT LEAST TWO BOOKS** over the summer, **ONE OF WHICH IS A REQUIRED TITLE FROM THE GRADE LEVEL LIST ON PAGE 4.** The required read for is tied to the theme of overcoming obstacles. This minimum requirement of two books will count as a homework grade. In addition, during the first full week of school, all ELA classes will have a graded assignment based on the required summer reading book.

However, we are encouraging all students to read **beyond the minimum requirement and double their efforts by reading four books or more!** Any student who doubles his or her effort will have their name entered into a raffle to win \$50 in free books during the first Scholastic Book Fair of the year which will be held in November. One student from each grade level will be selected to win.

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



Requirements

1. **Students entering grade 8 in September are required to at least one book from the grade 8 list on page 4.**
2. After reading **one of the titles from the grade 8 list**, students are to complete the response page in their reading log.
3. Next, using the suggested summer reading list as a guide, students select at least one other book to read during the summer. (Feel free to select books that may not appear on the list).
4. For each book read, students will record the title and author, as well as a brief response. Their response can take any **one** of the following forms:
 - ❖ Write a brief summary of the book.
 - ❖ Write a book recommendation/critique, describing why someone may or may not be interested in reading that book.
 - ❖ Share your thoughts, a reaction, or a connection you made to a character or event in the story, or to the information you may have learned.
 - ❖ Draw or sketch a favorite or interesting part of the book.
5. Parents will sign on the line provided in the reading log for each book your child completes.
6. During the first week of school in the September, students will hand their reading logs in to their homeroom teachers.
7. Students who read a minimum of two books will receive credit for the first homework assignment. Students who read four or more books will be entered into a drawing to win \$50 in free books at the first Scholastic Book Fair to be held in November.

Required Reading Title List for Entering Grade 8 Students

[Select a minimum of ONE title]

Themes of Overcoming Obstacles

Fiction:

Stand Tall by Jane Bauer

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Watson's Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

A Long Walk to Water By Linda Sue Park

Counting By 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Ungifted by Gordon Korman

El Deafo by Cece Bell

Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine

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. Haran

Witches! Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin

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

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

Stormbreaker (#1 Alex Rider Series) by Anthony Horowitz

Point Blank, Skeleton Key, Eagle Strike, Scorpio 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

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer

First Test (Protector of the Small Series), or sequels: *Page* or *Squire* by Tamora Pierce

Gathering Blue or *Giver* 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

Penny from Heaven by Jennifer L. Holm

Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, Second Summer of the Sisterhood, Girls in Pants or *Forever-Blue* by Ann Brashares

Call of the Wild or *White Fang* by Jack London

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

Non-Fiction:

Guts: The True Story behind Hatchet and the Brian Books by Gary Paulsen

The Teammates: A Portrait of Friendship by David Halberstam

Title: _____

Author: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Parent Signature: _____