

Summer Reading Recommendations For Students Entering 8th Grade

To continue to develop your personal tastes in reading and to maintain (and even increase) your reading skill level, self-select at least 10 full-length, personally interesting texts over the summer months. Try to read from a variety of genres and forms, including fiction, non-fiction, prose in verse, poetry, and essays.

To prepare specifically for the “Characters Inside Out” unit of study (ELA 8 and ELA 8 Honors), focus on fiction with significant character development and character change, such as these:

- *Okay for Now* by Gary Schmidt
- *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
- *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos
- *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose
- *The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds
- *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B* by Teresa Toten
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

To prepare for the “Conflict and Unrest” unit of study (ELA 8 and ELA 8 Honors), focus on plot-based conflict including variations on conflict resolution and multiple types of conflicts in texts such as these:

- *Undertow* by Michael Buckley
- *Ink and Bone* by Rachel Caine
- *I Become Shadow* by Joe Sine
- *The Great Greene Heist* by Varian Johnson
- *Proxy* by Alex London
- *Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson
- *Code of Honor* by Alan Gratz

To prepare for the “Powerful Young Voices” unit (ELA 8 and ELA 8 Honors), focus on texts written by young writers with a focus on advocacy, such as these:

- *Kids with Courage: True Stories about Young People Making a Difference* by Barbara A. Lewis
- *Trouble in My Head: A Young Girl’s Fight with Depression* by Mathilde Monaque
- *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger’s* by John Elder Robison
- *I Will Always Write Back* by Martin Ganda & Caitlin Alifirenka
- *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education & Changed the World (Young Readers Ed)* by Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick
- *Ignite Your Spark : Discovering Who You Are from the Inside Out* by Patricia Wooster

To prepare for the “Mystery and Macabre” unit of study (ELA 8 Only), focus on traditional mysteries and tales of the macabre, such as these:

- *Icefall* by Matthew Kirby
- *Doll Bones* by Holly Black
- *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* by Chris Grabenstein
- *Sweet* by Emmy Laybourne
- *Ink and Ashes* by Valynne Maetani
- *I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest
- *Max Helsing and the Thirteenth Curse* by Curtis Jobling
- *The Girl I Used to Be* by April Henry

To prepare for the “Metaphorically Speaking” unit of study (ELA 8 Honors Only) focus on award-winning fiction and non-fiction texts that use advanced metaphorical language and symbolism, such as these:

- *Wintergirls* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld
- *Stitches: A Memoir* by David Small
- *Hidden* by Helen Frost
- *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan