

Recommended Books for 8th Grade

Please pick a book from the list below for your Summer Reading Assignment. If you would like to read one not on this list, please email me at mgallop@ridgescroft.org for book approval.

Bartoletti: *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* c2005 nonfiction
Against the backdrop of Hitler's world, we follow German young people through the many different organizations which formed them into soldiers faithful to the fatherland.

Carson: *Gifted Hands: The Story of Ben Carson* c1990 autobiography Captures the physician's fight to beat the odds, the secret behind his outstanding accomplishments, and what drives him to take risks.

Condie: *Matched* c2010 science fiction [series: Matched trilogy]
Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, so when Xander appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate--until Ky Markham's face appears for an instant before the screen fades to black.

Cooney: *Code Orange* c2005 realistic fiction, suspense
While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York.

Cummings: *Red Kayak* c2004 realistic fiction
Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

Dashner: *The Maze Runner* c2009 science fiction [series: Maze Runner trilogy]
Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

Giblin: *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth* c2005 collective biography

Through a review of their family and an examination of their political ideologies, a biography presents a look at two who stood on opposing sides during the Civil War and how one, John Wilkes Booth, became the infamous assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

Gorman: *Games* c2007 realistic fiction

When fourteen-year-old rivals Boot Quinn and Mick Sullivan fight once too often, the new principal devises the punishment of having to play games together at his office, where they learn which battles are worth fighting.

Herlong: *The Great Wide Sea* c2008 adventure

Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea.

Klavan: *The Last Thing I Remember* c2009 suspense

High school student Charlie West awakens bloody and bruised in a concrete bunker, only to discover that he has lost a year of his life and remembers nothing about escaping from prison after being convicted of murdering his former best friend, or why he is being pursued by both the law and a group of terrorists trying to bring down the government of the United States.

Lupica: *Million Dollar Throw* c2009 realistic fiction

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

McWhorter: *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968* c2004 nonfiction

Explores the sacrifices and triumphs of African Americans in their pursuit of social and political equality, and examines the often violent resistance they met from white Americans.

Mulligan: *Trash* c2010 mystery

A group of fourteen year old boys, who make a living picking garbage from the

outskirts of a large city, find something special and mysterious that brings terrifying consequences.

Paolini: *Eragon* c2003 fantasy [series: Inheritance Cycle]

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic and power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters.

Park: *When My Name was Keoko* c2002 historical fiction

With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

Rinaldi: *A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials* c1992

historical fiction In 1706, the town of Salem is in an uproar due to the Salem witch trials. The story is told from the perspective of Susanna English, who is caught between her desire to join the malicious group of girls who are spreading the mischief and her fear of what they are doing.

Van Draanen: *Runaway* c2006 realistic fiction

After running away from her fifth foster home, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country, keeping a journal of her experiences and struggle to survive.

Werlin: *The Rules of Survival* c2005 realistic fiction Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

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