

8th Graders' Suggested Summer Reading List



Abrahams, Peter. *Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery.* Laura Geringer, 2005. Eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill idolizes Sherlock Holmes, so it is not surprising when, stumbling across a murder; she opts to keep what she knows a secret and tries to solve the crime herself.

Ahmedi, Farah with Tamin Ansary. *The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky.* Simon Spotlight, 2005. Farah Ahmedi, a victim of a land mine at twelve, tells of her childhood before and during the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and how she and her mother coped after coming to America.

Broach, Elise. *Shakespeare's Secret.* Holt, 2005. Hero, named after the character in a Shakespeare play, moves into a new home and suddenly finds a connection between Shakespeare, her new home, and a diamond hidden in the house, with the help of a neighbor and a popular boy from school.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *The Seeing Stone.* Arthur A. Levine Books, 2001. During the late twelfth century, thirteen-year-old Arthur enjoys looking at the legendary King Arthur through his seeing stone, a gift from Merlin, and notices the parallels with his own life.

Crowe, Chris. *The Mississippi Trial,* 1955. Putnam Penguin, 2002. In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African-American from Chicago.

Crutcher, Chris. *Whale Talk.* 2001. There's bad news and good news about the Cutter High School swim team. The bad news is that they don't have a pool. The good news is that only one of them can swim anyway.

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain.* Johnny is a silversmith's apprentice in colonial Boston. During the chaotic times before the Revolution, Johnny's life is turned upside down when he seriously injures his hand. Later, things improve for him as he becomes a spy for the Sons of Liberty.

Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl.* 1947. Anne Frank began to keep a diary on her thirteenth birthday, June 12, 1942, three weeks before she went into hiding with her mother, father and sister and four other people in the sealed-off upper rooms of the annex of her father's office building in Amsterdam. With the assistance of a group of Otto Frank's trusted colleagues they remained hidden for two years and one month, until their betrayal in August 1944, which resulted in their deportation to Nazi concentration camps.

Gallo, Donald. *First Crossing: Stories about Teen Immigrants.* Candlewick, 2004. This collection of short fictional stories explores the extreme challenges faced by many teen immigrants to America.

Lawrence, Iain. *B for Buster.* Delacorte, 2004. Sixteen-year-old Kak, escaping his tyrannical parents, lies about his age and enlists in the Canadian Royal Air Force and soon finds himself based in England flying bombing raids over Germany.

Lipsyte, Robert. *The Contender.* Alfred Brooks, a high school dropout, desperately wants to change his life and prove to himself that he can be somebody. Subjecting himself to the discipline of training to be a boxer, he tries to discover whether he has the heart of a contender and faces new risks and responsibilities.

London, Jack. *The White Silence.* 1899. A young man, his friend, and his friend's wife must face a wrenching, life-or-death decision, 200 miles from the nearest town in the frozen North.

London, Jack. *White Fang.* 1906. A half-dog, half-wolf is born wild, but eventually becomes a beloved and trusted human companion.

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars.* The Johansen family, including ten-year-old Anne Marie, takes over the care of her Jewish friend, Ellen Rosen. The Rosens are in danger and hope Ellen can pass as a member of the Johansen family until passage can be arranged for all of the Rosens to leave Denmark and go safely to Sweden. Anne Marie shows courage and determination in helping her friend.

Miklowitz, Gloria. *Secrets in the House of Delgado.* Eerdmans, 2001. In Spain in 1492, Fourteen-year-old Maria, a Catholic orphan, becomes a servant to a wealthy family of Conversos, converted Jews, at a time when the Jews are being expelled from the country and when the Inquisition is diligently searching for religious heretics.

Murphy, Jim. *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.* Houghton Mifflin, 2003. In 1793, a yellow fever epidemic swept through Philadelphia, creating chaos as people began evacuating in droves, leaving the city without government, goods, or services. Physicians, the Free African Society, and others stayed on to care for the sick.

Namioka, Lensey. *Ties That Bind, Ties That Break.* Delacorte, 1999. Ailin, rebelling against the ancient Chinese tradition of binding girls' feet loses her family's support and makes a new life in the United States.

Myers, Walter Dean. *The Glory Field.* The Lewis family is chronicled through this incredible story about an African-American family from slavery to present day.

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Myers, Walter Dean. *The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins*. 1999. Scott is 17, American and about to participate in the storied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. With no prior combat experience, he lands at Omaha Beach and discovers a world of horrors.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. *A Candidate for Murder*. Cary, the daughter of a candidate for governor of Texas, unexpectedly starts to receive strange phone calls and feels she is being followed. Soon she finds herself in the middle of murderous intrigue—and danger.

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon*. Random House, 2003. In Aegaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Paulsen, Gary. *The River*. Delacorte, 1991. In *The River*, Brian is asked to return to the woods to teach Derek, a government psychologist, survival techniques. But when Derek is struck by lightning, Brian's survival skills are further tested as he must find a way to get the seriously injured Derek out of the woods.

Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Winter*. 1998. *Brian's Winter* begins where *Hatchet* might have ended: Brian is not rescued at the end of summer, and must now build on his survival skills to face his deadliest enemy—winter.

Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Return*. Brian, now in high school, faces one of the most difficult challenges of his life in *Brian's Return*. After seeing a counselor, Brian learns what he has known in his heart for a long time: his life has changed forever, and he belongs in the woods.

Pierce, Tamora. *Trickster's Choice*. Random House, 2003. Alianne, kidnapped and put into slavery, calls forth her mother's courage and her father's spying skills in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.

Shusterman, Neal. *The Schwa Was Here*. Dutton, 2004. A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is so nondescript that he blends into his surroundings and goes unnoticed by nearly everyone. Horn Book/Boston Globe Award

Taylor, Mildred. *The Land*. Fogelman, 2001. Paul-Edward, the son of a part Indian, part-African slave mother and a white plantation owner father, finds himself caught between the two worlds of his parents as he pursues his dream of owning land in the aftermath of the Civil War.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. 1884. Huck journeys down the Mississippi on a raft with a runaway slave named Jim. The two fugitives encounter many adventures and witness the worst of human behavior before their journey ends.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. 1876. Young Tom Sawyer and his friend Huck Finn hunt for treasure along the banks of the Mississippi River and, along the way, witness a terrible crime.

Wynne-Jones, Tim. *A Thief in the House of Memory*. FSG, 2005. The death of an apparent stranger in the Steeple family's old home triggers troubling questions for sixteen-year-old Declan as he tries to make sense of his fragmented dreams, random memories, and unexplained coincidences, hoping to learn the truth about the mother who suddenly left when he was ten.

Wrede, Patricia. *Sorcery & Cecelia, or, the Enchanted Chocolate Pot*. Harcourt, 2003. In 1817 in England, two young cousins, Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards.

Yancey, Richard. *The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp*. Bloomsbury, 2005. Orphaned and incurably geeky teen Alfred Kropp is coerced by his unscrupulous uncle into stealing a valuable sword that turns out to be Excalibur, which draws him into a dangerous and violent misadventure.

Yee, Lisa. *Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time*. Arthur A. Levine, 2005. Named after his father's alma mater, Stanford Wong has big expectations to fulfill academically and as the star of his basketball team. When he flunks 6th grade, has to go to summer school and can't go to basketball camp, he must hide his secret from his friends and get tutored by his arch enemy.