

GRADE 8 SUMMER READING LIST

MODERATE TO CHALLENGING

Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson

Jenna is a 17 year old who awakens from a coma after a serious accident only to learn a startling truth about herself in this novel where technology knows no bounds.

The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender

In this autobiography, a teenage girl recounts the suffering and persecution of her family under the Nazis—in a Polish ghetto, during deportation, and in a concentration camp.

Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart

Frankie Landau-Banks turns her boarding school's secret society traditions upside down in this fun, feminist, and highly disrespectful romp.

Endymion Spring by Matthew Skelton

Having accompanied his mother and pesky younger sister to Oxford, Blake stumbles across an ancient magical book that was secretly sent to England in 1453 to save it from evil forces.

House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer

In this intriguing science fiction adventure, Matt is trying to make sense of this world, the one responsible for the birth of the human clone.

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Welcome to the Hunger Games, a Capitol-endorsed reality TV show in which Katniss can only prevail by killing the other players...even Peeta, who once saved her from starvation.

I Am the Cheese: A Novel by Robert Cormier

A young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet he knows he must hide those memories if he is remain alive.

Patron Saint of Butterflies by Celia Galante

When her grandmother takes Agnes, her brother, and her friend Honey from a religious commune, Agnes clings to faith as Honey looks toward a future free of control and cruelty.

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

This classic tells about a lower-class Indian man who is overcome with greed and selfishness when he finds the Great Pearl. This greed and selfishness ruins him and his family forever.

Runner by Carl Deuker

Living with his alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat on Puget Sound has been hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but when his love of running leads to a high-paying job, he quickly learns that money is not worth the risk.

Shift by Jennifer Bradbury

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating and only one of them returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

Side Effects by Amy Goldman Koss

When Izzy goes to the doctor to check her swollen glands, she thinks he'll give her some medicine but it's not that simple; Izzy has cancer.

Unwind by Neal Shusterman

An orphan, a rebel, and a Chosen One join forces while trying to escape being unwound, a process in which a person is harvested for parts. Will Risa, Conor, and Lev escape the insanity of their society?

SilverFin: a James Bond adventure by Charles Higson

This prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces us to the young James when he's just started boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure.

Seeing Emily by Joyce Lee Wong

This book relates in free verse the experiences of sixteen-year-old Emily, a gifted artist and the daughter of immigrants to the United States, as she tries to reconcile her American self with her Chinese heritage.

Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve

In the distant future, when cities move about and consume smaller towns, a fifteen-year-old apprentice is pushed out of London by the man he most admires and must seek answers in the perilous Out-Country, aided by one girl and the memory of another.

Book of Dead Days by Marcus Sedgwick

With the help of his servant and an orphan girl, a magician named Valerian searches graveyards, churches, and underground waterways for a book he hopes will save him from a pact he has made with the devil.

Girl, 15, Charming but Insane by Sue Limb

Fifteen-year-old Jess, living with her mum, separated from her father in Cornwall, and with her best friends who seems to do everything perfectly, finds her own assets through humor.

Shackleton's Stowaway by Victoria McKernan

This non-fiction work tells of the experience of a sixteen-year-old from Wales who stowed away on the Endurance and the hardships that ensued on that fateful journey.

Boy2Girl by Terence Blacker

A young American boy whose mother has just died has to live with his English aunt. He makes a bet with his cousin that he can pretend to be a girl for the first week of school and he proceeds to do that with of course unexpected results.

Son of the Mob by Gordon Korman

When your father is the head of the mob, it's hard for people to treat you normally, let alone have a love life.

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the U.S.S. Indianapolis by Peter Nelson

After 50 years, a teenager has uncovered new and classified information resulting in the exoneration of the Captain and crew of one of the worst maritime disasters in history.

Less challenging

Wolf Rider: A Tale of Terror by Avi

After receiving an apparent crank call from a man claiming to have committed a murder, fifteen-year-old Andy finds his close relationship with his father crumbling as he struggles to make everyone believe him.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

While on trial as a accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

The Misfits by James Howe

Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

Eyes of the Emperor by Graham Salisbury

Following orders from the United States Army, several Japanese American men train K-9 units to hunt Asians during World War II.

One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies by Sonya Sones

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.

Emako Blue by Brenda Woods

Monterey, Savannah, Jamal, and Eddie have never had much to do with each other until Emako Blue shows up at chorus practice, but just as the lives of the five Los Angeles high school students become intertwined, tragedy tears them apart.