

8th Grade Summer Reading



Dear 8th Grade Families,

For the summer, we are going to focus two of the most wonderful books that I have ever read. They are a little challenging but I have no doubt that this class can handle them. The first one is The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. The second one is Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson.

I would read The Adventures of Tom Sawyer first. It's a little tougher to comprehend and it may take a little time to work through some of the more difficult details. We will be working with the two books in the first month of school. I suggest that students keep a notebook while they are reading the book, detailing concepts that they find confusing, as well as noting vocabulary that they think may be a little challenging.

We are also going to be reading ONE biography. It takes the form of a picture book but I think that getting to grips with biographies is difficult, and learning to work with them is a skill that we will practice throughout the year. The biography is entitled The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy) by Barbara Kerley. It's probably a good idea that the kids read the book numerous times during the summer because we will be looking at the picture book format and how different media are put together to create a story.

In addition to these books, I think it is reasonable to expect the students to read at least two other books over the summer. Some will read many more, but those who have issues with reading should find 5 [in total] books adequate.

Once again, I will register the students for the Scholastic Reading Challenge. Students can go to www.scholastic.com and choose the summer reading challenge option. Their user names and passwords will be on School Notes. They can log their minutes on Scholastic and the school can win cool prizes.

I will be providing a book list from which the students can choose their additional two books. If they have already read those books, then books of their choosing are fine, as long as they are age appropriate. I will also be providing a book report template from which the students can craft a book report. They are required to do ONE book report so they need to choose which of their summer books they want to report on. They are NOT to do a report on The Adventures of Tom Sawyer or Chains or the biography. The report will be handed in on the first day of school.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. F

Adventure

Kit's Wilderness	David Almond
I am the Ice Worm	MaryAnn Easely
The Warm Place	Nancy Farmer
Alex Rider Series	Anthony Horowitz
The White Darkness	Geraldine McCaughrean
Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell
Crossing	Gary Paulsen
The River	Gary Paulsen
Peak	Roland Smith

Classics

Little Women	Louisa May Alcott
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel DeFoe
Anne of Green Gables Series	L.M. Montgomery
Kidnapped	Robert Louis Stevenson
Gulliver's Travels	Jonathan Swift
The Lord of the Rings Trilogy	J.R.R. Tolkein
The Sword in the Stone	T.H. White
Swiss Family Robison	J.D. Wyss

Dramatic Fiction

Skeleton Man	Joseph Bruchac
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Bloomability	Sharon Creech
Double Dutch	Sharon Draper
Pictures of Hollis Woods	Patricia Reilly Giff
The Misfits	James Howe
The Cheat	Amy Goldman Koss
The Graduation of Jake Moon	Barbara Park
Slob	Ellen Potter
My Own Worst Enemy	Carol Sonenklar
It Only Looks Easy	Pamela Curtis Swallow
Belle Prater's Boy	Ruth White
Feathers	Jacqueline Woodson
The Amah	Laurence Yep
<u>Fantasy</u>	
Remnants Series	K.A. Applegate
The Future of Us	Jay Asher
The Sisters Grimm Series	Michael Buckley
Tomorrow Girls Series	Eva Gray
The Giver	Lois Lowry
The False Prince	Jennifer Nielsen
The Percy Jackson Series	Rick O'Riordan
The Key to Rondo	Emily Rodda
<u>Historical Fiction</u>	
Fever 1793	Laurie Halse Anderson
Beyond the Western Sea – Into the Storm	Avi

King of Shadows	Susan Cooper
Kindertransport	Olga Levy Drucker
Bull Run	Paul Fleischman
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman	Ernest Gaines
Red Scarf Girl	Ji-Li Jiang
Darkness over Denmark	Ellen Levine
Desperate Journey	Jim Martin
Antarctica	Walter Dean Myers
The Anne Frank Case	Susan Goldman Rubin
Angel on the Square	Gloria Whelan
And in the Morning	John Wilson

Horror

The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman
Dark Souls	Paula Morris
Among the Betrayed	Margaret Haddix Peterson

[She has written a lot of books but they may be a little scary for sensitive readers.]

Humor

Smiles to Go	Jerry Spinelli
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Mystery

The 39 Clues Series	Various Authors
Peeled	Joan Bauer
The Shakespeare Stealer	Gary Blackwood
The Rag and Bone Shop	Robert Cormier
Locked in Time	Lois Duncan

Death Cloud

Andrew Lane

Sport

Heat

Mike Lupica

[He has written a lot of sport related books that are worth reading]

