

Briarcliff Middle School

Grade 8 Summer Reading 2017

There is no required reading for 8th graders, but it is recommended that you continue to read during the summer. Reading over the summer will help you improve your comprehension and writing skills.

There are many types of books on this list, some short, some long, some serious, some funny, true stories and fiction. Find a few you're interested in and enjoy them on vacation!

CONTEMPORARY FAVORITES

- Anderson, M.T. **FEED:** In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. **WARNING: This book has graphic language and should be discussed with a parent before selecting.**
- Anderson, Natalie **CITY OF SAINTS AND THIEVES:** Sixteen-year-old Tina and two friends leave Kenya and slip into the Congo, from where she and her mother fled years before, seeking revenge for her mother's murder but uncovering startling secrets.
- Bacigalupi, Paolo **SHIP BREAKER:** In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl. **Printz Award, 2011**
- Cabot, Meg **PANTS ON FIRE:** Senior Katie Ellison has built her popularity on a base of lies that threatens to come tumbling down when Tommy Sullivan, her best friend in middle school, returns after a four-year absence and seems determined to strike up a relationship again in spite of Katie's past betrayal.
- Cashore, Kristin **GRACELING:** In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king. *Sequels:* **FIRE, BITTERBLUE**
- Gephart, Donna **LILY AND DUNKIN:** Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth-grade. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change

- Glaser, Mechthild **BOOK JUMPER:** A teen girl discovers she is a book jumper--she can leap directly into books, meet the characters, and experience the world of the book
- Hardinge, Frances **A FACE LIKE GLASS:** When Neverfell, who has no memory, arrives in Caverna, her facial expressions make her very dangerous to the people who live with blank faces or pay dearly to learn to simulate emotions.
- Johnson, Angela **FIRST PART LAST:** Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. *Companion novel:* **HEAVEN.**
- Lockheart, E. **THE DISREPUTABLE HISTORY OF FRANKIE LANDAU-BANKS:** Frankie Landau-Banks attempts to take over a secret, all-male society at her exclusive prep school, and her antics with the group soon draw some unlikely attention and have unexpected consequences that could change her life forever. **Prinz Honor Book, 2009**
- Na, An **A STEP FROM HEAVEN:** A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America. **Printz Award, 2001**
- Ness, Patrick **A MONSTER CALLS:** Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.
- Pratchett, Terry **NATION:** A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives. **Printz Honor Book, 2009**
- Reeve, Philip **FEVER CRUMB:** Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an engineer although females in the future London, England, are not believed capable of rational thought, but at age fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present. Sequels: **WEB OF AIR, SCRIVENER'S MOON**
- Saenz, Benjamin Alire **ARISTOTLE AND DANTE DISCOVER THE UNIVERSE:** Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

Schmidt, Gary D **ORBITING JUPITER:** The shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled teen who wants to find his baby at any cost. In the time they're together the two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires.

Timberlake, Amy **ONE CAME HOME:** Georgie Burkhardt is known for two things: her uncanny aim with a rifle and her habit of speaking her mind plainly. But when Georgie blurts out something she shouldn't, her older sister Agatha runs off with a pack of "pigeoners" trailing the passenger pigeon migration. When the sheriff returns to town with an unidentifiable body--wearing Agatha's dress --everyone assumes the worst. Refusing to believe the facts that are laid down before her, Georgie sets out to find her sister. **Newbery Honor Book, 2014**

Yoon, Nicola **THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR:** Natasha is a girl who believes in science and facts. Daniel has always been a good son and good student. But when he sees Natasha he forgets all that and believes there is something extraordinary in store for both of them. **Printz Honor Book, 2017**

SPORTS

Carter, Alden **BULL CATCHER** (baseball): Neil and his friend Jeff spend their high school years dreaming of becoming major league players. As a senior, Neil begins to wonder if there is more to life than baseball.

Crutcher, Chris **WHALE TALK** (swimming): Very intelligent and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's misfits and outcasts.

Deuker, Carl **GUTLESS** (football): Falling short of varsity qualifications because of his tendency to avoid physical aggression, talented football player Brock Ripley struggles to face his fears when his team's star quarterback begins bullying Brock's best friend.

Green, Tim **FOOTBALL GENIUS** (football): Troy has an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur. He attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Green, Tim **BASEBALL GREAT** (baseball): All Josh wants to do is play baseball but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth

championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences.

- Kinsella, W.P. **SHOELESS JOE** (baseball): Ray Kinsella's fanatic love of baseball drives him to build a baseball stadium in his corn field and kidnap the author, J.D. Salinger, and bring him to a baseball game.
- Lupica, Mike **THE BIG FIELD** (baseball): When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.
- Myers, Walter Dean **HOOPS** (basketball): Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson sees the city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions as a possible escape from Harlem but fears the pressures that have sidelined his coach, Cal.
- Scieszka, Jon, editor **SPORTS PAGES**: the third volume in Jon Scieszka's Guys Read Library of Great Reading, features ten short stories guaranteed to put you in the ring, under the basket, and right behind home plate. From fiction to nonfiction, from baseball to mixed martial arts and everything in between, these are a collection of stories about the rush of victory and the crush of defeat on and off the field.

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS/NON-FICTION

- Bascomb, Neal **THE NAZI HUNTERS: HOW A TEAM OF SPIES AND SURVIVORS CAPTURED THE WORLDS MOST NOTORIOUS NAZI**: In 1945 at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazi's Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century's most important trials – one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination.
- Bausum, Ann **WITH COURAGE AND WITH CLOTH: WINNING THE FIGHT FOR A WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE**: The long, arduous and sometimes violent struggle for a woman's right to vote is told in an engaging narrative. The roots of the movement as well as the other efforts it spawned are well told.
- Blumenthal, Karen **LET ME PLAY: THE STORY OF TITLE IX, THE LAW THAT CHANGED THE FUTURE OF GIRLS IN AMERICA**: Can girls play softball? Or ice hockey? Or soccer? Of course they can... today. But a few decades ago they weren't allowed to. Then, in 1972 something momentous happened: Congress passed a law called "Title IX," changing the lives of American girls. Hundreds of lawmakers, teachers, parents, and athletes

carefully planned to make sure the law was passed, protected, and enforced. They were pushed back, but they persevered and now millions of American girls can now play sports.

- Blumenthal, Karen **BOOTLEG: MURDER, MOONSHINE, AND THE LAWLESS YEARS OF PROHIBITION:** It began with the best of intentions. Worried about the effects of alcohol on American families, mothers and civic leaders started a movement to outlaw drinking in public places. Over time, their protests, petitions, and activism paid off with a Constitutional Amendment banning the sale and consumption of alcohol. Instead, it began a decade of lawlessness, when the most upright citizens casually broke the law, and a host of notorious gangsters entered the public eye.
- Blumenthal, Karen **STEVE JOBS: THE MAN WHO THOUGHT DIFFERENT:** "Your time is limited. . . . have the courage to follow your heart and intuition."-- Steve Jobs. From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniak. Then came the core and hallmark of his genius-- his exacting moderation for perfection, his counterculture life approach, and his level of taste and style that pushed all boundaries.
- Brimner, Larry Dane **BLACK & WHITE: THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN REVEREND FRED L. SHUTTLESWORTH AND EUGENE "BULL" CONNOR:** In the 1950s and early 60s, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as Bombingham. At the center of this violent time in the fight for civil rights, and standing at opposite ends, were Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene Bull Connor. From his pulpit, Shuttlesworth agitated for racial equality, while Commissioner Connor fought for the status quo. **Sibert Informational Book Honor Medal, 2012**
- Freedman, Russell **THE VOICE THAT CHALLENGED A NATION: MARIAN ANDERSON AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS:** A biography of the great singer Marian Anderson and her role in bringing the injustice of segregation in the arts to national awareness. **Newbery Honor Book, 2005**
- Hillenbrand, Laura **SEABISCUIT:** The journey of Seabiscuit, a horse with crooked legs and a pathetic tail that made racing history in 1938, thanks to the efforts of a trainer, owner, and jockey who transformed a bottom-level racehorse into a legend.
- Hoose, Phillip M. **CLAUDETTE COLVIN: TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE:** The story of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months **before** Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial

civil rights case. **Newbery Honor Book 2010, National Book Award, 2009**

- Hoose, Phillip M. **THE RACE TO SAVE THE LORD GOD BIRD:** The story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker's demise is the centerpiece for a book about extinction and the pressures of mankind upon the Earth.
- Seiple, Samantha **LINCOLN'S SPYMASTER: ALLAN PINKERTON, AMERICA'S FIRST PRIVATE EYE:** Pinkerton was just a poor immigrant barrel-maker in Illinois when he stumbled across his first case just miles from his home. His reputation grew and people began approaching Pinkerton with their cases, he assembled a team of undercover agents, and together they caught train robbers, counterfeiters, and other outlaws. Seeing firsthand the value of Pinkerton's service, President Lincoln, seeing how useful Pinkerton's team was, funded Pinkerton's spy network, a precursor to the Secret Service.
- Sheinkin, Steve **BOMB: THE RACE TO BUILD AND STEAL THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON:** In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon.
- Sheinkin, Steve **MOST DANGEROUS: DANIEL ELLSBERG AND THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR:** An account of what the Times deemed "the greatest story of the century": how whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg transformed from obscure government analyst into "the most dangerous man in America," and risked everything to expose years of government lies during the Nixon/Cold War era.
- Stone, Tanya Lee **THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BARBIE: A DOLL'S HISTORY AND HER IMPACT ON US:** Is Barbie a blond Chucky slashing away at little girls' self-esteem? Or is she My First Feminist, with her lab coats, astronaut helmets, and high-fashion gowns, encouraging girls to imagine themselves in whatever roles they choose? This book explores how Barbie has influenced generations of girls, discussing criticisms of the doll, her role in fashion, and her surprising popularity during her first fifty years.
- Turner, Pamela **SAMURAI RISING: THE EPIC LIFE OF MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE:** Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga. This epic warrior tale reads like a novel, but this is the true story of the greatest samurai in Japanese history. When Yoshitsune was a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family--and lost. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a

monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.

HISTORICAL FICTION

- Bolden, Tonya **CROSSING EBENEZER CREEK:** Freed from slavery, Mariah and her young brother Zeke join Sherman's march through Georgia, where Mariah meets a free black named Caleb and dares to imagine the possibility of true love, but hope can come at a cost.
- Donnelly, Jennifer **A NORTHERN LIGHT:** Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life. **Printz Honor Book, 2004**
- Gleitzman, Morris **ONCE:** After living in a Catholic orphanage for nearly four years, a naïve Jewish boy runs away and embarks on a journey across Nazi-occupied Poland to find his parents. *Sequels:* **THEN, NOW**
- Larson, Kirby **HATTIE BIG SKY:** Sixteen-year-old Hattie Brooks inherits her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana in 1917 and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war in Europe. **Newbery Honor Book, 2007**
Sequel: **HATTIE EVER AFTER**
- Neilson, Jennifer **A NIGHT DIVIDED:** When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic were in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.
- Richards, Jame **THREE RIVERS RISING: A NOVEL OF THE JOHNSTOWN FLOOD:** Sixteen-year-old Celestia is a wealthy member of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club, where she meets and falls in love with Peter, a hired hand who lives in the valley below, and by the time of the torrential rains that lead to the disastrous Johnstown flood of 1889, she has been disowned by her family and is staying with him in Johnstown. *A novel in verse.*
- Savit, Gavriel **ANNA AND THE SWALLOW MAN:** When her university professor father is sent by the Gestapo to a concentration camp, seven-year-old Anna travels the Polish countryside with the mysterious Swallow Man during World War II.

Sepetys, Ruta

BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY: In 1941, Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.

CLASSICS

Aiken, Joan

THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE: Surrounded by villains of the first order, brave Bonnie and gentle cousin Sylvia conquer all obstacles in this Victorian melodrama.

Austen, Jane

MANSFIELD PARK: Fanny Price, a teenaged girl of low social rank brought up on her wealthy relatives' countryside estate feels the sharp sting of rejection when her cousin Edmund, the only person who treats her as an equal, is won over by a flirtatious, exciting--and unprincipled--London girl.

Cather, Willa

MY ANTONIA: A successful lawyer remembers his boyhood in Nebraska and his friendship with an immigrant Bohemian girl.

Kipling, Rudyard

KIM: Kim, the orphaned son of an Irish soldier, grows up in British India and becomes involved in the British Secret Service.

Shakespeare, William

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW: Describes the volatile courtship between the shrewish Katherine and the canny Petruchio, who is determined to subdue Katherine's legendary temper and win her dowry.

Twain, Mark

THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER: The classic story of a mischievous 19th-century boy in a Mississippi River town and his friends, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher, as they run away from home, witness a murder, and find treasure in a cave.