



Summer 2009 8th Grade Reading List

Dear 8th Grade Students and Families:

Throughout the school year I continually make notes and search Amazon and Barnes and Noble for books that I think 8th graders might enjoy. Some people collect baseball cards or coins and I amass young adult literature for middle schoolers. So in short, as a means of introduction, I am a complete book geek and it is my mission in life to spread the love and joy that books bring. Are you excited about the new school year yet?

In this great pursuit of book happiness, I also do my best to accommodate as many book

requests as possible to our summer reading list. This year's list is no exception including many Florida Sunshine State Books. I have not read these yet, but look forward to doing so and hearing your thoughts on them.

In accordance with the course descriptions listed in the 2009-2010 Course Sign Up sheet signed by all middle school parents and students, the following information outlines class requirements.

- **All students are required to read three books from the summer reading list.**
- **A project is required to be completed on one of these three books.**
- **A reading review will be given on the other two books upon returning from the summer break.**

A project is required for one of the three selected books. Project options and requirements are listed on the back side of this sheet. A reading quiz for the two other books selected from the list will be given during the week of Monday, August 24.

These reading lists are also provided to our area bookstores and public libraries including Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base. We have asked these community partners to make all effort

Please join us on the Web at www.quia.com/pages/mshuntsclass1.html to check our class calendar. I also encourage you to post a comment about your current book or simply to say hello on our class blog: <http://www.mshuntsclassblog.eduublog.org>

to have these books available to your child for purchase or checkout. As always, our goal is to promote reading for all students and continue our mutual commitment with you for

high literacy standards.

Please review the attached reading selections for your child's grade. After reviewing this information, please sign the stapled reply form to indicate that you have received this handout and return this form to your child's current Language Arts or classroom teacher by **Friday, May 22**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We all wish you and your family a safe and wonderful summer vacation.

Happy Reading.

A. Hunt

LJPS 8th Grade Language Arts

Special note: Great research, thought, and discussion went into the compiling of these reading lists. Please review these lists and the book descriptions with your child to determine exact appropriateness. If you have any concerns, please contact me prior to the end of the 2009 school year.

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Middle School Language Arts classes:

- **Select three (3) books from your upcoming grade's list**
- **Read!**
- **Complete a project on one (1) of these books as listed on handout**
 - Due Monday, August 24
- **Be prepared for a reading review on the other two (2) books**
 - Reading quiz on both during week of Monday, August 24, 2009

LJPS 8th Grade 2009 Project Options

Option 1: Here's Your Sign

Road sign messages often can apply to life and even literary characters in some way. Have you ever passed a road sign such as "Danger: No Entry" and thought of an instance or encounter in your life that would have been much easier if the person involved had just heeded a sign such as that? What about a character from your book?

Decide which of the following signs (or if you can think of another) depicts one of the characters from your novel. Make a sign using the road sign saying and provide graphics to further help audience understanding of how the sign, saying, and graphics offer insight into a particular character. Write a one page written explanation of your sign. This paper should be typed or written clearly in pen. Think quality work standards!

Before you begin, please take note of colors used on signs all around the world and what the colors indicate, such as yellow and black, warning; green and white, guide signs; orange and black, construction signs; red, and negative information and warning. Shapes also indicate something to the public: triangles indicate warnings, circles are restrictions or requirements, diamond shapes indicate priority, and squares and rectangles give guidance.

Use a *half-sized piece of poster board* (white or other color) for this assignment. Somewhere on your poster indicate the title and author of your book and a pertinent quote from the book and page number that helps emphasize the road sign saying. Be creative with your colors and materials.

Rubric for Here's Your Sign:

- Road sign graphic is clear, colorful, and well executed. The poster is exceptionally attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness. (30 points)
- One page written explanation of the sign accurately describes using proper grammar conventions (spelling, punctuation, and complete sentences) the road sign and how it pertains to one of the main characters of the book. (30 points)
- Title and author are indicated on front of poster. (15 points)
- Pertinent quote from book and page number is located on the front of the poster and helps emphasize the road sign saying. (15 points)
- Quality work standards: Assignment is turned in with pride. Paper and poster are clean, not wrinkled, and is easy to read with no distracting (10 points)
- FINAL GRADE /100

Option 2: Test Design—You're the Teacher!

Your task is to create a test including a variety of questions such as true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay. Your test may be carefully handwritten or typed.

1. Create a cover page with your name, title and author of your book, and date.
2. On your next pages, write or type a section of:
 - True/false,
 - Multiple choice,
 - Matching,
 - Short answer, and
 - One essay question.
3. You should have a total of forty (40) questions.
4. Be sure to write clear directions for each section.
5. Attach a completed answer key. Hint: Xerox/copy a second copy of your test and then fill in your answers to the test.

Rubric for Test Design:

- Cover sheet is complete with your name, title and author's name, and date (5 points)
- All questions are clear and understandable. Each question shows an insight and comprehension of book. (30 points)
- Thought provoking essay question that shows insight and comprehension of book (15 points)
- Total of forty (40) questions (10 points)
- Clear written or typed directions (10 points)
- Completed answer key (20 points)
- Correct use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, complete sentences (10 points)
- FINAL GRADE /100

LJPS Middle School 2009 8th Grade Summer Reading List

Directions: From the following two pages, select *three* books to read over the summer.

- One of these books you will use for your Summer Reading Project. You choose which one you would like to complete the project on!

- Be prepared to take a review on the other two books during the week of August 24. Again, you pick your books from this list.

Relax, read, and enjoy your summer!

8th Grade Reading List

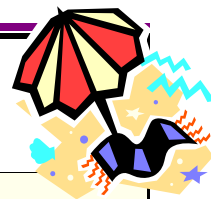
Choose Three Books From the Following Choices or Two Books and Complete One for the Project and Two for Book Reviews during the Week of August 24



Author	Title	Description
Anderson, Lauren Halse	Chains	At the start of the Revolutionary War, Isabel is sold to a cruel loyalist family, even though she has been promised freedom by her former owner. Soon faced with the choice of working for or against the British, Isabel chooses to work with anyone who can help her. Fiction (F)
Avi	The Seer of Shadows	The time is 1872. The place is New York City. Horace Carpetine has been raised to believe in science and rationality. So as apprentice to a society photographer, he thinks of his trade as a scientific art. But when a wealthy society matron orders a photographic portrait, strange things begin to happen. Horace's first real photographs reveal a frightful likeness: it's the image of the society matron's dead daughter, Eleanora. (F)
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell	The Boy Who Dared	<i>The Boy Who Dared</i> tells the story of Helmuth Hubener, a young man growing up in Nazi Germany. Although he enters the Hitler Youth, and he has family members serving in the German army, Helmuth's conscience will not allow him to be swept up in the nationalistic fervor of the times. (F)
Bloor, Edward	London Calling	Martin Conway, who numbly attends an upscale private school, is pulled out of his ennui by a strange call from his grandmother right before her death. His curiosity increases when the art deco radio she bequeaths him introduces him to Jimmy, a figure from the past who asks for his help. Martin is introduced to a maze of mysterious parallels and alternating times and places. (F)
Boyne, John	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	Bruno's father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences. (F)
Collins, Suzanne	Hunger Games	Sixteen-year-old Katniss is smart, athletic, and fast. She can take down a rabbit with a bow and arrow, hitting it straight through the eye. Will these skills be enough to survive the Hunger Games? (F)
Connor, Leslie	Waiting for Normal	Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mom has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, jubilation or gloom, her way or no way. All or nothing never adds up to normal. All or nothing can't bring you all to home, which is exactly where Addie longs to be, with her half sisters, every day. In spite of life's twists and turns, Addie remains optimistic. Someday, maybe, she'll find normal. (F)
Farmer, Nancy	House of the Scorpion	Matt's last name is Alacrán, which means that he belongs to a powerful family that controls the drug Farms between the U.S. and the former Mexico. But Matt is different; he's a clone in a world filled with dangers for his kind. Although I am not typically a sci-fi reader, I love this book. —Ms. H. (F)
Fleischman, Sid	The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*	Motivated, as he explains in his afterword, to create a personal remembrance of the 1.5 million Jewish children killed in the Holocaust, Fleischman pairs Freddie, a struggling, ex-GI ventriloquist, with Avron, the ghost of one such victim, in a short, provocative tale that leavens the tears with laughter. (F)
Frank, Anne	Anne Frank: Diary of A Young Girl	Born in 1929, Anne Frank received a blank diary on her 13th birthday, just weeks before she and her family went into hiding in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. Her marvelously detailed, engagingly personal entries chronicle 25 trying months of claustrophobic, quarrelsome intimacy with her parents, sister, a second family, and a middle-aged dentist who has little tolerance for Anne's vivacity. Please note that there are several versions of this historic book. Non-Fiction (NF)
Hart, Allison	Gabriel's Horses*	On a Kentucky plantation during the Civil War, slave Gabriel Alexander, 12, cares for his master's Thoroughbred racehorses and dreams of being a great jockey, just like his dad. After Pa enlists with the Yankees, the boy also yearns to be a soldier and fight for freedom. At the core of this stirring historical novel is the question of what freedom means. (F)

* indicates a 2009-2010 Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program book selection

8th Grade Reading List Continued
Choose Three Books From the Following Choices
One for the Project and Two for Book Reviews during the Week of August 24



Author	Title	Description
Jaramilo, Ann	La Linea*	Miguel has dreamed of joining his parents in California since the day they left him behind in Mexico six years, eleven months, and twelve days ago. On the morning of his fifteenth birthday, his wait is over. (F)
Johnson, Angela	Toning the Sweep	On a visit to her grandmother Ola, who is dying of cancer in her house in the desert, fourteen-year-old Emmie hears many stories about the past and her family history and comes to a better understanding of relatives both dead and living. Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner. (F)
Johnson, Maureen	Suite Scarlett	Her new summer job comes with baggage. Scarlett Martin has grown up in a most unusual way. Her family owns the Hopewell, a small hotel in the heart of New York City, and Scarlett lives there with her four siblings. When each of the Martins turns fifteen, they are expected to take over the care of a suite in the once elegant, now shabby Art Deco hotel. For Scarlett's fifteenth birthday, she gets both a room called the Empire Suite, and a permanent guest called Mrs. Amberson. (F)
Law, Ingrid	Savvy	Upon turning 13, each member of the Beaumont family develops a supernatural ability, or "savvy," which must then be tamed. Well aware of the problems savvys can bring (the family had to relocate when one child had difficulty controlling his storm-producing savvy), 12-year-old Mississippi (Mibs) awaits her birthday eagerly but with a bit of trepidation. (F)
Lester, Julius	To Be A Slave	This Newberry Honor Book and School Library Journal Best Book of the Year is a compilation, selected from various sources and arranged chronologically, of the reminiscences of slaves and ex-slaves about their experiences from the leaving of Africa through the Civil War and into the early twentieth century. (NF)
Myers, Walter Dean	Slam	Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently. (F)
Na, An	Step From Heaven	In a stunning novel debut honored with the Michael J. Printz Award for excellence in literature for young adults, writer An Na tells the story of a Korean family that immigrates to California in search of a better life, only to find that the American Dream is harder to achieve than they thought. (F)
Peck, Richard	The River Between Us	During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois. 2003 National Book Award Finalist, Young People's Literature Winner of the 2004 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. (F)
Staples, Suzanne Fisher	Under the Persimmon Tree	During the 2001 Afghan War, the lives of Najmal, a young refugee from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and Nusrat, an American-Muslim teacher who is awaiting her husband's return from Mazar-i-Sharif, intersect at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan. (F)
Stead, Rebecca	First Light*	Peter is thrilled when his father decides to take the family on his latest excursion to Greenland to study the effects of global warming. Thea lives in a secret society called Gracehope under the Greenland ice. After finding a map that leads her to the surface, she becomes obsessed with seeing the sun and bringing her people back above ground. Peter and Thea accidentally meet on the surface and discover, through a secret kept by Peter's mother, that their destinies are unexpectedly joined. (F)
Tan, Shaun	The Arrival	In a heartbreaking parting, a man gives his wife and daughter a last kiss and boards a steamship to cross the ocean. He's embarking on the most painful yet important journey of his life—he's leaving home to build a better future for his family. This graphic novel was named one of the "2008 Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults" by the American Library Association. (F)
Van Draanen, Wendy	Runaway*	When twelve-year-old Holly runs away from her latest foster home, she takes with her, without quite understanding why, the journal that an English teacher had been requiring her to keep. The journal entries relate Holly's experiences as she avoids police, social workers, and some territorial and potentially violent homeless people. (F)
Yolen, Jane	The Devil's Arithmetic	When 12-year-old Hannah is transported back to a 1940's Polish village, she experiences the very horrors that had embarrassed and annoyed her when her elders related their Holocaust experiences. (F)