

8th Grade 2013 Required Summer Reading

Hello Incoming 8th Graders,

Welcome to SRMS 8th Grade English!!! To prepare for the upcoming year, you are to read TWO books from the list below and fill out an assignment sheet for EACH book (located at the end of this list). While we encourage you to read other books as well, you must read at least TWO books from this list in order to meet the summer reading requirement. Please bring completed sheets on the 1st day of school.

See you in September!
The 8th Grade English Department

SPORTS

Summer Ball by Mike Lupica

“Lupica is at his best when he puts the reader right in the center of the action on the court. Young sports-fiction fans will eat this up.”

Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupicia

Eighth-grader Nate “Brady” Brodie is one of professional quarterback Tom Brady’s biggest fans. Nate also plays quarterback, and when he wins the chance to throw one pass for a million dollars during halftime at a New England Patriots game, his entire life changes.

Payback Time by Carl Deuker

Payback Time is a compelling combination of sports novel and mystery. Daniel (alias Mitch) is the underdog in his high school. He does not have a girlfriend, has few friends, and cannot play sports, but he is a talented reporter for the school newspaper and is desperately searching for the perfect lead story to get him noticed by the local paper.

The Big Time: A Football Genius by Tim Green

Powerfully charged from start to finish, this is an amazing portrayal of Troy’s struggle to make his lifetime dreams of being with his father come true. Filled with page-turning excitement as a high-stakes deal increases the clash of family tension, *The Big Time* is an unforgettable experience.

The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John Ritter

The fate of a rural California town rides on a baseball game that pits a ragtag group of locals against a slick summer-camp team. Colorful characters, a mysterious ringer, and some awesome play-by-play are all part of this sports novel with a subtle reinforcement of small-town values.

ACTION/ADVENTURE

Alex Rider (or any in the series) by Anthony Horowitz
(*Stormbreaker*, *Eagle Strike*, *Skeleton Key*)

They told fourteen-year-old Alex Rider that his uncle died in a car accident. Entering the world as a secret agent after his guardian uncle’s suspicious death, Alex

must finish his uncle’s mission and find his uncle’s killers.

Maximum Ride (or any in the series) by James Patterson

Maximum Ride, better known as Max, is a fourteen-year-old who knows what it’s like to soar above the world. She and her friends are similar to most kids – with the exception that they can fly!

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

Robin “Birdy” Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn’t quite sure why he joined the army, but he’s sure where he’s headed: Iraq.

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Legend by Marie Lu

A compelling dystopic world, with diverse characters, high tension and political intrigue. [If] you liked the Hunger Games, you’ll love this.

The Selection Series by Kiera Cass

Cass’s immensely readable debut novel is a less drastic Hunger Games, with elaborate fashion and trappings. The fast-paced action will have readers gasping for the upcoming sequel.

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

Hartman proves dragons are still fascinating in this impressive high fantasy. Equal parts political thriller, murder mystery, bittersweet romance, and coming-of-age story, this is an uncommonly good fantasy... An exciting new series to watch

Matched or *Crossed* by Ally Condie (For fans of *Hunger Games*)

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander’s face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham’s face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black.

Leviathan (or any in the series) by Scott Westerfield

Scott Westerfeld's *Leviathan* is a tightly paced young adult novel set in an alternate version of the First World War. Aleksandar Ferdinand, a Clanker, and Deryn Sharp, a Darwinist, are on opposite sides of the war. But their paths cross in the most unexpected way, taking them both aboard the Leviathan on a fantastical, around-the-world adventure....One that will change both their lives forever.

Divergent by Veronica Roth (For fans of *Hunger Games*)
In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent).

I Am Number Four by Pittacus Lore
“There's genuine suspense...it's easy to get lost in the world of the sweet teen from another planet.”

Found (or any in the series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
An irresistible set-up for a new series: An unidentified airplane appears out of nowhere. When the aircraft is boarded, its only occupants are babies; once they are removed, the pilotless plane vanishes.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Drama by Raina Telgemeier
An utterly charming graphic memoir of tooth trauma, first crushes and fickle friends...irresistible, funny and touching—a must read for all teenage girls.

Any books by Chris Wooding (*Pandemonium*, *Malice*, *Havoc*)

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick
From Brian Selznick, the creator of the Caldecott Medal winner *THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET*, comes another breathtaking tour de force.

DRAMA

Wonder by RJ Palacio
Wonder is a rare gem of a novel—beautifully written and populated by characters who linger in your memory and heart. August Pullman is a 10-year-old boy who likes Star Wars and Xbox, ordinary except for his jarring facial anomalies. Homeschooled all his life, August heads to public school for fifth grade and he is not the only one changed by the experience—something we learn about first-hand through the narratives of those who orbit his world.

A Map of the Known World by Lisa Sandell
Cora Bradley dreams of escape. Ever since her reckless older brother, Nate, died in a car crash, Cora has felt suffocated by her small town and high school. She seeks solace in drawing beautiful maps, envisioning herself in exotic locales (Drama/Romance).

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin
After 15-year-old Liz dies in a bicycling accident, she wakes up on a ship to find herself in “elsewhere.” As she adjusts to her new life, she will come to question – what is a life lived? A gripping page-turner, emotional and fascinating.

Beastly by Alex Flinn
Kyle Kingsbury had the life everyone wanted – money, looks, popularity; that is, until his English teacher cast a spell on him, turning him into a ...beast. A modern re-telling of the beloved story of “Beauty and the Beast” through the beast's eyes, it will delight readers.

Bluefish by Pat Schmatz
Eighth-grader Travis, tall and quiet, is beginning his first year in a new school. When he helps out a student being bullied, this rare act of middle-school kindness impresses an unusual, witty, and talkative girl named Vida—or Velveeta, as she prefers to be called.

The Summer I Learned to Fly by Dana Reinhardt
Reinhardt traces the friendship formed between two lonely adolescents in this atmospheric novel set in California during the 1980s.

Never Slow Dance with a Zombie by E. Van Lowe
What do you do when your entire student body turns into zombies?

Cloaked by Alex Flinn
I'm not your average hero. I actually wasn't your average anything. Just a poor guy working an after-school job at a South Beach shoe repair shop to help his mom make ends meet. But a little magic changed it all.

The Lost Crown by Sarah Miller
A heart-wrenching, suspenseful look at the downfall of the Russian empire as told through the eyes of the four Romanov sisters.

NON-FICTION

Bizarre World of Food by Andrew Zimmern
Have you ever thought about eating giant flying ants? Or raw camel kidneys? Well, read on to watch Andrew Zimmern not only eat these unique and gross foods, but live to tell the tale about the people, places, and adventures he's had while roaming the world in search of new and exciting meals.

Name: _____

© MARK ANDERSON, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED WWW.ANDERSTOONS.COM



"Go back and give that part a little more oomph. Really make me believe!"

Summer Reading Book Review

As you read, please fill in the following information:

Title: _____ Protagonist: _____

Author: _____ Protagonist Info (gender, age, basic description):

Genre (sci-fi, fantasy, realistic fiction, non-fiction, sports, etc): _____

Setting (time AND place): _____

Theme/Lesson: _____

3 words to describe your protagonist's inner qualities (Ex. Brave, Sensitive, Humble):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If your protagonist had to wear a pair of shoes, what would they be and why – give multiple ways this is a good shoe choice? (Ex. Mrs. Parkin – I would give her a pair of brightly-colored New Balance running shoes for three reasons. First, everybody buys Nike, but Mrs. Parkin is an individual and does not need to jump on that bandwagon. Also, she needs athletic shoes because she not only is physically active, but she also moves around all of the time. Finally, Mrs. Parkin needs a bright pair of shoes because she is full of energy!)

List 2 quotes with page number by or about your protagonist that are essential to the character:

1. _____

2. _____

To Recommend or Not To Recommend?

Discuss your recommendation. Include all of the following:

1. Would you recommend your book to someone else? Why or why not?
2. What audience- age, gender, athletes, *Twilight* fans - might enjoy your book choice the most? Be thorough!
3. Give your book a rating from 5 (love it!) to 0 (no way!).

Summer Reading Book Review

As you read, please fill in the following information:

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre (sci-fi, fantasy, realistic fiction, non-fiction, sports, etc):

Setting (time AND place): _____

Theme/Lesson: _____

Protagonist: _____

Protagonist Info (gender, age, basic description):

3 words to describe your protagonist's inner qualities (Ex. Brave, Sensitive, Humble):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If your protagonist had to wear a pair of shoes, what would they be and why – give multiple ways this is a good shoe choice? (Ex. Mrs. Parkin – I would give her a pair of brightly-colored New Balance running shoes for three reasons. First, everybody buys Nike, but Mrs. Parkin is an individual and does not need to jump on that bandwagon. Also, she needs athletic shoes because she not only is physically active, but she also moves around all of the time. Finally, Mrs. Parkin needs a bright pair of shoes because she is full of energy!)

List 2 quotes with page number by or about your protagonist that are essential to the character:

1. _____

2. _____

To Recommend or Not To Recommend?

Discuss your recommendation. Include all of the following:

1. Would you recommend your book to someone else? Why or why not?
2. What audience- age, gender, athletes, *Twilight* fans - might enjoy your book choice the most? Be thorough!
3. Give your book a rating from 5 (love it!) to 0 (no way!).

