

8th Grade 2014 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

Swagger by Carl Deuker

If you've read Deuker's brand of sports/social dramas and liked them, then SWAGGER will not disappoint. In this case, the sport is basketball and the drama surrounds a senior guard, Jonas Dolan. The number of issues in the air, along with Deuker's patented talent for game description, will keep any reader interested!

Foul Trouble by John Feinstein

Terrell Jamerson is the #1 high school basketball player in the country. His team is poised to win State, top colleges are lining up to give him scholarships, and everyone says he could play in the NBA tomorrow. But it only takes one false step to lose everything.

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 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.

ACTION/ADVENTURE/SUSPENSE/THRILLER

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Amusing, fantastic, whimsical, and real by turns, it is a well-wrought good-versus-evil tale. In this Newbery Medal-winning novel, Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits

an unusual place—he's the only living resident of a graveyard.

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

A cataclysmic astronomical event threatens the very existence of the world and all of humankind. An event like this is too immense to imagine in any detail, but the story is told from the point of view of one 16 year old girl living in Pennsylvania, and the apocalyptic event is viewed from the perspective of one person in this seemingly isolated corner of the world - exciting, thought-provoking, and unique in this genre for its realism.

If We Survive by Andrew Klavan

Members of a church-group mission to rebuild a school in a Central American nation find their flight home delayed by a violent revolution sweeping the countryside. This book is fast-paced with multiple threats, genuine tension and lots of suspense!

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.

MYSTERY

Nightmare City by Andrew Klavan

A jaw-dropping novel that transports its reader to another place, this is the story of Tom, a teenager and journalist on the lookout for the next big story. Unfortunately, he is the next story. A great read for any mystery or thriller fans!

Chasing Shadows by Swati Avashti

Avasthi (Split) delivers a superb novel about grief, friendship, and mental illness, mixing in graphic-novel elements and themes from Hindu mythology.

Full Ride by Margaret Peterson Haddix

After 14-year-old Becca's father is convicted of a clutch of financial crimes that attracted national attention, she and her mother flee from their Georgia home to Ohio in search of a new life of anonymity. But now Becca is a senior in high school, and, while applying for a full-ride scholarship to college, she inadvertently reveals the truth of her identity. She quickly realizes that she has put her and her mother's lives in danger; they might become the truest victims of her father's crimes. But not everything is what it

seems, and there are surprises ahead for Becca and the reader.

***Loud Awake and Lost* by Adele Griffin**

Two-time National Book Award finalist Griffin continues her exploration of the inner workings of the mind in this moving and surprising story. Ember was seriously injured in a car crash, but worse, she killed her passenger, a young man named Anthony. Along with brain trauma and back injuries, she has no memory of the six weeks prior to the accident. Then she meets Kai, so free and different from her old friends, and he makes her want to wake up again. But what will she find when she does?

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION/DYSTOPIA

***Neptune's Tears* by Susan Waggoner**

What if your first time falling in love was with an alien? Waggoner creates an intriguing view of the future, and a subplot full of danger and political upheaval adds tension to this first love story.

***The Vision Series* by Lisa McMann
(*Crash, Bang, Gasp*)**

Intense series from the writer of the *Wake* Trilogy.

***Unbreakable* by Kami Garcia**

Unbreakable is a fast-paced, relentless race through a world of demons and spirits, darkness and light -- and the finish line comes when you least expect it.

***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

***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.

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/REALISTIC FICTION

***If I Stay* by Gayle Forman**

Forman creates a cast of captivating characters and pulls readers into a compelling story that will cause them to laugh, cry, and question the boundaries of family and love. Intensely moving, the novel will force readers to take stock of their lives and the people and things that make them worth living.

***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).

***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: _____

Summer Reading Book Review

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

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!).

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