

## GRADES 6-8 Summer Reading List

Students **must** read at least four books in order to qualify for the summer reading t-shirts. Please choose books that you **have not read before**.

### **A Monster Calls**

**Patrick Ness**

**4.8**

In this novel inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd, 13-year-old Conor awakens to find a monster, not the one from his recurring nightmare, but an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss, outside his bedroom window.

### **A Single Shard**

**Linda Park**

**6.6**

Tree-ear, an orphan in Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the celadon ceramics himself.

### **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

**Betty Smith**

**5.8**

A young girl comes of age in the squalor and poverty of the Brooklyn slums.

### **Around the World in Eighty Days (unabridged)**

**Jules Verne**

**9.6**

Phileas Fogg and his servant make a breathless world tour, overcoming wild misadventures and rescuing a beautiful Indian maharani.

### **All Creatures Great and Small**

**James Herriot**

**6.8**

An English veterinarian reminisces about his life, career, and animal patients in a small village in the Yorkshire dales.

### **Black Ships Before Troy**

**Rosemary Sutcliff**

**6.8**

This book retells the story of the Trojan War, from the quarrel for the golden apple and the flight of Helen with Paris, to the destruction of Troy.

### **Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's...**

**Steve Sheinkin**

**6.9**

This book about the history of the atomic bomb discusses the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

### **Boy Who Dared, The**

**Susan Bartoletti**

**4.9**

In October 1942, 17-yr-old Helmuth, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people.

### **Brooklyn Nine, The**

**Alan Gatz**

**5.0**

The fortunes of a German immigrant family are followed through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball.

### **Chasing Lincoln's Killer**

**James Swanson**

**7.5**

Based on James Swanson's bestselling adult book MANHUNT: THE 12-DAY CHASE FOR LINCOLN'S KILLER, this young adult version is an accessible look at the assassination of a president and describes Abraham Lincoln, the man, the father, and the husband.

### **Count of Monte Cristo, The (abridged)**

**Alexander Dumas**

**8.8**

In this retelling of Alexandre Dumas's classic, young Dantes is sent to prison on a false accusation in 1815. He escapes many years later and finds a treasure, which he uses to exact his revenge.

<b>Cracker: The Best Dog In Vietnam</b>	<b>Cynthia Kadohata</b>	<b>4.9</b>
A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his scout dog.		
<b>Crow</b>	<b>Barbara Wright</b>	<b>5.4</b>
In 1898, Moses's summer does not go as planned as he contends with family problems and the changing alliances among his friends in the tension between African Americans and whites in Wilmington, North Carolina.		
<b>Emerald Atlas, The</b>	<b>John Stephens</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared, but now they learn they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy.		
<b>Forged By Fire</b>	<b>Sharon Draper</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Teenage Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved.		
<b>Ghosts in the Fog</b>	<b>Samantha Seiple</b>	<b>7.8</b>
This narrative account of the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Aleutian Islands during World War II is told from the perspectives of an American civilian and soldiers from both sides of the conflict.		
<b>Giver, The</b>	<b>Lois Lowry</b>	<b>5.7</b>
While training to be the Receiver of Memory, Jonas experiences joy and sadness for the first time. He becomes convinced his society has given up too much, and he can no longer accept the sameness.		
<b>Gym Candy</b>	<b>Carl Deuker</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick. He works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year and then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, with disastrous results.		
<b>Heaven</b>	<b>Angela Johnson</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her biological parents.		
<b>Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor....</b>	<b>Avi</b>	<b>4.3</b>
After his father dies fighting for the Union, thirteen-year-old Tom takes a job at the local ironworks, where he helps build a ship for the Union army and is approached by Confederate spies to sell the ship's secrets.		
<b>Land, The</b>	<b>Mildred Taylor</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Paul-Edward, son of a white plantation owner and a slave mother of African-Indian heritage, follows his dream of owning his own land through hard work and determination.		
<b>Legend</b>	<b>Marie Lu</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Seventeen-year-old Blake has a chance encounter on a school trip and finds himself transported into a strange new world, where he is perceived as a hero by an enigmatic mermaid creature, changing his life forever.		
<b>Mysterious Benedict Society, The</b>	<b>Trenton Stewart</b>	<b>5.6</b>
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where their mission is to stop the plan of the evil Ledropha Curtain		

<b>Number the Stars</b>	<b>Lois Lowry</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<p>In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.</p>		
<b>Out of the Dust</b>	<b>Karen Hesse</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<p>In a series of poems, fourteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm.</p>		
<b>Red Scarf Girl</b>	<b>Ji-Li Jiang</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<p>This book is an engrossing memoir of a Chinese girl, her family, and how their lives became a nightmare during Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s.</p>		
<b>Return to Sender</b>	<b>Julia Alvarez</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<p>After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes friendship knows no borders.</p>		
<b>Roar, The</b>	<b>Emma Clayton</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<p>In an overpopulated world where all signs of nature have been obliterated and a wall has been erected to keep out plague-ridden animals, twelve-year-old Mika refuses to believe that his twin sister was killed after being abducted.</p>		
<b>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</b>	<b>Mildred Taylor</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<p>Warmth, humor and hard times prevail as a black family struggles to maintain dignity and independence in Depression-era Mississippi.</p>		
<b>Saving Zasha</b>	<b>Randi Barrow</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<p>In 1945 Russia, those who own German shepherds are considered traitors, but thirteen-year-old Mikhail and his family are determined to keep the dog a dying man brought them, while Mikhail's classmate Katia strives to learn his secret.</p>		
<b>That Summer</b>	<b>Sarah Dessen</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<p>During the summer of her divorced father's remarriage and her sister's wedding, fifteen-year-old Haven comes into her own by letting go of the myths of the past.</p>		
<b>Treasure Island (unabridged)</b>	<b>Rober Stevenson</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<p>While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune and great danger.</p>		
<b>Under a War Torn Sky</b>	<b>Laura Elliott</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<p>After his plane is shot down by Hitler's Luftwaffe, nineteen-year-old Henry Forester of Richmond, Virginia, strives to walk across occupied France, with the help of the French Resistance, in hopes of rejoining his unit.</p>		
<b>Underneath, The</b>	<b>Kathi Appelt</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<p>An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack and two kittens born underneath the house endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations before they finally end up reunited and free.</p>		
<b>Unknowns , The</b>	<b>Benedict Carey</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<p>When people start vanishing from a godforsaken trailer park next to the Folsom Energy Plant, two eleven-year-olds investigate using mathematical clues that were hastily planted by their friend Mrs. Clarke before she disappeared.</p>		

Ten-year-old Auggie, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, where he endures taunts and bullying and struggles to be seen as just another student.