

Summer Reading Assignments 8th Grade

Read **two** books from the appropriate grade level book list, as well as **two** freely-chosen books which do not have to be on the list. Complete one of these assignments for each book you read. Remember to include your name and grade on all assignments. Use any of the following assignments no more than twice. If you've already read a book on the list, you may read its sequel.

1. Design a book jacket. Remember to include title and author. See book jackets at your library for ideas.
2. Write a radio or television commercial advertising the book you've read. This should be short—remember, commercial spots are usually thirty seconds or less.
3. Create a collage showing scenes, characters or ideas from the book.
4. Write a short book review. Write no more than one paragraph about the story or content of the book, and one paragraph about what you liked best—or least—about the book.
5. Write an epilogue to the book you've read, describing what you think might have happened after the events in the book.

Interested in other books to read over the summer?

Help finding extra books to read, as well as more summer reading activities, may be found at your local public library. For information and book lists, see <http://www.njsummerreading.org>.

8th Grade

Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine*.

Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*.

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Fleming, Candace. *Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life*.

In a well-illustrated scrapbook format, Fleming traces Eleanor Roosevelt's life from her difficult childhood to her role as a precedent-setting First Lady and a leading proponent of human rights.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Just Ella*.

In this continuation of the Cinderella story, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette – so she plots to escape.

Hobbs, Will. *Far North*.

After the destruction of their floatplane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his friend, Raymond, struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories.

Jones, Diana Wynne. *Conrad's Fate*.

When his uncle sends him to work at the mysterious Stallery Mansion, twelve-year-old Conrad Tesdnic overcomes his bad karma and discovers in the mansion's winecellar the source of the magic that threatens to pull his world into one of many other parallel universes.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*.

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Krisher, Trudy. *Uncommon Faith*.

In 1837-38, residents of Millbrook, Massachusetts, speak in their different voices of major issues of their day, including women's rights, slavery, religious differences, and one fiery girl named Faith.

Lubar, David. *Dunk*.

While hoping to work as the clown in an amusement park dunk tank on the New Jersey shore the summer before his junior year in high school, Chad faces his best friend's serious illness, hassles with police, and the girl that got away.

Lynch, Chris. *Gold Dust*.

In 1975, twelve-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school, hoping that Napoleon will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston school.

Nix, Garth. *Sabriel*.

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, was born in the Old Kingdom, a place of magic and mystery, but schooled in the modern world. Now she must go back to rescue her father from the land of the dead.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Last Book in the Universe*.

After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*.

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*.

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Torrey, Michele. *To the Edge of the World*.

In 1519, after the death of his parents, fourteen-year-old Mateo Macias becomes cabin boy to Ferdinand Magellan on a dangerous journey in search of a route to the fabled Spice Islands.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Midnighters: The Secret Hour*.

Upon moving to Bixby, Oklahoma, fifteen-year-old Jessica Day learns that she is one of a group of people select group of individuals whose birth at the stroke of midnight gives them the special ability to move about in a mysterious 25th hour – and fight ancient creatures living there.