

2010 Summer Reading List

Incoming 8th Grade

Students are encouraged to **read at least 1 book from this list** plus 2 more books of their choice, for a total of **3 books**.

Albom, Mitch. ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven.*** **

Eddie is a wounded war veteran, an old man who has lived, in his mind, an uninspired life. His job is fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. On his 83rd birthday, a tragic accident kills him as he tries to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakes in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a destination. It's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers. One by one, from childhood to soldier to old age, Eddie's five people revisit their connections to him on earth, illuminating the mysteries of his "meaningless" life, and revealing the haunting secret behind the eternal question: "Why was I here?" **(Seek Parent Approval**)**

Bray, Libba. ***A Great and Terrible Beauty.***

Sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England to go to finishing school after her mother's mysterious death, and becomes aware of her ability to enter into the spirit world. **(Sequels also accepted)**

Bronte, Charlotte. ***Jane Eyre.***

Jane Eyre becomes a governess in Mr. Rochester's home of Thornfield and falls in love with him before she finds that he has a tragic secret.

Burg, Anne E. ***All the Broken Pieces: A Novel in Verse.***

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Caine, Rachel. ***Glass Houses.***

In Morganville, Texas, a town where evil terrorizes the streets under the cover of darkness, Claire Danvers, who has had enough of her current dorm situation, moves off campus and discovers that the town is run by vampires. Original. **(Sequels also accepted)**

Chevalier, Tracy. ***Girl with a Pearl Earring.***

Sixteen-year-old Griet, a servant in the house of famous seventeenth century Dutch painter, Vermeer, becomes the inspiration for one of his most important paintings.

Conner, Leslie. ***Waiting for Normal.***

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Crichton, Michael. ***Andromeda Strain.***

Four American scientists race against an atomic deadline fighting a contaminating agent from outer space.

Dickens, Charles. ***Oliver Twist.***

A young orphan struggles to survive on the mean streets of London.

Emma, Clayton. *The Roar*.

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, and continues to search for her in spite of the dangers he faces in doing so.

Funke, Caroline. *The Thief Lord*.

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with -- and the protection of -- Venice's "Thief Lord."

Grant, Michael. *Gone*.

In the blink of an eye. Everyone disappears. GONE. Except for the young. Teens. Middle schoolers. Toddlers. But not one single adult. No teachers, no cops, no doctors, no parents. Just as suddenly, there are no phones, no internet, no television. No way to get help. And no way to figure out what's happened. Hunger threatens. Bullies rule. A sinister creature lurks. Animals are mutating. And the teens themselves are changing, developing new talents—unimaginable, dangerous, deadly powers—that grow stronger by the day. (Like a modern-day Lord of the Flies)

Green, Tim. *Baseball Great*.

All twelve-year-old Josh wants to do is play baseball but when his father, a minor league pitcher, signs him up for a youth championship team, Josh finds himself embroiled in a situation with potentially illegal consequences. **Sequel:** Rivals: A baseball Great Novel.

Green, John. *An Abundance of Katherines*.

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

Johnson, Maureen. *13 Little Blue Envelopes*.

When seventeen-year-old Ginny receives a packet of mysterious envelopes from her favorite aunt, she leaves New Jersey to criss-cross Europe on a sort of scavenger hunt that transforms her life.

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm*.

In 1991 off Nova Scotia, three major storms converge to form a super storm, which threatens everyone caught in its powerful winds and waves.

Kehret, Peg. *Runaway Twin*.

Thirteen-year-old Sunny, accompanied by a stray dog, takes advantage of a windfall to travel from her Nebraska foster home to Enumclaw, Washington, to find the twin sister from whom she was separated at age three.

King, Laurie. *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*.

A teenage girl from California meets Sherlock Holmes near his retirement home on the Moors, and then joins him in battling England's master criminals.

Lubar, David. *The Battle of the Red Hot Pepper Weenies*.

A collection of offbeat and fantastical tales finds a family Thanksgiving meal interrupted by vengeful turkeys, a princess meeting a pea-brained suitor, and a battle between two weenies erupting in flames.

McKellar, Danica. ***Math Doesn't Suck: How to Survive Middle School Math.***

Demystifies middle-school math concepts that are most challenging, sharing step-by-step instructions for developing real-world math skills, providing time-saving tips and tricks, and offering practice problems with detailed answers and explanations.

Montgomery, Lucy Maud. ***Anne of Green Gables.***

Anne, a feisty orphan, has arrived at her new home only to discover that the Cuthbert's wanted to adopt a boy, but she tries to win them over in this classic story. (Any book in series accepted)

Potter, Ellen. ***Slob.***

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

Pratchett, Terry. ***Nation.***

After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

Rex, Adam. ***The True Meaning of Smekday.***

Twelve-year-old Gratuity Tucci has a hard time writing an essay on "The True Meaning of Smekday" due to her complex life after Earth was overtaken by aliens and her mother was kidnapped and taken to Happy Mouse Kingdom in Florida.

Scott, Westfield. ***Leviathan.***

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

Scott, Westfield. ***Uglies.***

Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all. (Any book in this Series).

Smelcer, John. ***The Great Death.***

As their Alaskan village's only survivors of sickness brought by white men one winter early in the twentieth century, sisters Millie, aged thirteen, and Maura, ten, make their way south in hopes of finding someone alive.

Wrede, Patricia. ***Thirteenth Child.***

Eighteen-year-old Eff must finally get over believing she is bad luck and accept that her special training in Aphrikan magic, and being the twin of the seventh son of a seventh son, give her extraordinary power to combat magical creatures that threaten settlements on the western frontier.