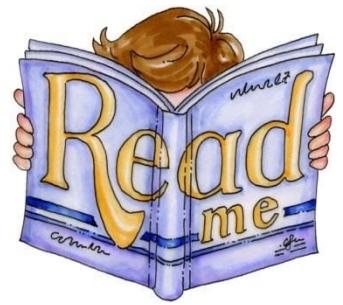


# INCOMING EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST – 2020

You are required to read **TWO** books over the summer. Select **ONE** classic from the list below. Then choose **ONE** additional book either from the Classics List or the Suggested Reading List. (See back for summer writer's notebook writing related to this reading.)



## CLASSICS:

- *A Separate Peace*, by John Knowles - Two adolescents come to understand each other and themselves after a tragic accident.
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith - A young girl comes of age in the squalor and poverty of the Brooklyn slums.
- *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott - This sequel to *LITTLE WOMEN*, relates the story of Plumfield School, established by Jo and her husband, and follows the adventurous life of the naughty but soft-hearted boys at the orphanage.
- *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott - This story is based on the family life of the author and her sisters and their diverse personalities as they grew up.
- *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George - Written in the form of a diary, this story relates the days of a young boy in the Catskill Mountains.
- *The Illustrated Man*, by Ray Bradbury - A tattooed man tells a story for each of his tattoos.
- *Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain - Tom Sawyer, a mischievous 19th-century boy in a Mississippi River town, and his friends, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher, run away from home, witness a murder, and find treasure in a cave.



## OTHER SUGGESTED READING:



- *Alex Rider: Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz - After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, Alex is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency. Book #1
- *Always Running by Luis Rodriguez* - The son of Mexican immigrants, Luis J. Rodriguez grew up in Watts and East Los Angeles. He began writing in his early teens, and eventually won national recognition as a poet, journalist, and critic. This is his account of his coming of age.
- *And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie* - Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts, and one by one they die.
- *Code Talker* by Joseph Brucha - Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue. The plot contains mild profanity, violence, and alcohol use.
- *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins - Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.
- *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Houston - This is the true story of one Japanese American family and their attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.
- *Fever 1793*, by Laurie Halse Anderson - In 1793 Philadelphia, fourteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.
- *Funny in Farsi* by Dumas - Dumas, Firoozeh - In 1972, when she was seven, Firoozeh Dumas and her family moved from Iran to Southern California, arriving with no firsthand knowledge of this country beyond her father's glowing memories of his graduate school years here.

- *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton - An astonishing technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Creatures once extinct now roam Jurassic Park, soon-to-be opened as a theme park, until something goes wrong and science proves a dangerous toy.
- *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel - Pi survives a shipwreck with several animals and with intelligence, daring and inexpressible fear, manages to keep his wits about him as the animals begin to assert their places in the food chain. The plot contains graphic violence.
- *Make Lemonade* by Virginia Wolff - In this coming of age story, a seventeen-year-old unwed mother of two kids by two different, absent fathers hires fourteen-year-old Vera to help baby-sit her children. Book #1
- *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary* by Walter Dean Myers - This biography offers a provocative look at the life and personality of the African-American leader who confronted racism in the U.S.
- *Shackleton's Stowaway*, by Victoria McNernan - This book is a fictionalized account of the adventures of Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of the toes of his left foot.
- *Snow Flower and Secret Fan* by Lisa See - Friends Snow Flower and Lily find solace in their bond as they face isolation, arranged marriages, loss, and motherhood in nineteenth-century China.
- *The Pigman* by Paul Zindel - John and Lorraine are two high school sophomores who befriend Mr. Pignati, a lonely old man with an awful secret
- *The Sword and the Circle: King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*, by Rosemary Sutcliff - This book is a retelling of the adventures of King Arthur, Queen Guenever, Sir Lancelot, and other knights of the round table.
- *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield - Author Vida Winter, having given out several versions of her life story over the years, decides to finally have Margaret Lea write her biography and draws the young woman into a tale of a governess, a ghost, a willful woman, and a gothic mansion.

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## **Writer's Notebook Directions for SUMMER READING:**

While you are reading, you will respond in your Writer's Notebook to each of the books you read. (1) You will need a NEW Writer's Notebook. (2) Decorate it with pictures, clippings, quotes, and other things that reflect something about you and that you could possibly use to provide inspiration for your writing. (3) Seal it with clear packing tape or contact paper so that nothing falls off. (4) Answer the following summer reading questions.....

### **Summer Reading Questions (for your writer's Notebook):**

1. What is the theme of this book? (Remember: the theme is the main point the author is trying to communicate to the reader; it should be a complete sentence and a universal statement.)
2. Name one major conflict from the book and describe how that conflict is resolved.
3. Describe two settings from the book, provide detail.
4. Pick a character from the book. Describe what he or she is like at the beginning of the plot. How does this character change throughout the story?
5. Explain how you can relate to this book. Consider the plot, characters, setting, etc.

**When you return to school in September, you will take Accelerated Reader quizzes on the books you have read over the summer and your notebook will be checked.. You may use your Writer's notebook (and the responses to the above questions within it) as you take your quizzes.**



**HAVE FUN READING!**