

## Summer Reading assignments for Grade 8

Both of these assignments are due by Friday, August 31

You will be reading two books. Use the suggested reading list to make your selections.

**For one of the books, choose one of the following projects:**

1. Make an illustrated timeline of the events in the book
  - a. Be sure to give a brief explanation of the event
  - b. Include a few illustrations that relate to the events
  - c. Include at least 8 events
2. Write 5 diary/journal entries from the point of view of one of the characters
  - a. Include thoughts/feelings/experiences for that character
  - b. Each entry should be about 4-5 sentences, with details from the book
3. Create the front page of a newspaper, using information from the story
  - a. Be creative- give the newspaper a good title
  - b. Include a few key "news" stories based on the book and whatever else you wish
  - c. Make it all look like the front of a newspaper
4. Write a "story poem" about events/characters from the story- retell key details from the book in the form of a poem. Rhyme is up to you.

**\*\*\*\*\* For whichever project you choose, include the title and author of the book.**

**For the other book, write a book log**

**Be sure to include the title and author**

1. Describe either your favorite scene/event or describe your favorite character- this should be written as a detailed paragraph.
2. Give your opinion of the book- did you like/dislike it? Why/why not?

Amadou counts the things that matter. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods he and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day.

**The Mark of the Dragonfly by Jaleigh Johnson** When plucky machinist Piper saves Anna after a meteor shower, both girls stow away on an armored train to escape the man chasing them.

**Some Kind of Courage by Dan Gemeinhart** Bears, bandits, and raging rapids can't stop Joseph from searching for what's left of his family— his beloved horse, Sarah—across the American Northwest frontier.

### These are Rhode Island Middle School Book Award Winners or Nominees

**Drowned City by Don Brown \*\*\*\*\*** The sadness of avoidable tragedy and the triumph of the human spirit come to life in this graphic novel about Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in US history.

**Beautiful Blue World by Suzanne Lafleur \*\*\*\*\*** Sofarende is at war and the army is paying families well to recruit children, so if twelve-year-old Mathilde or her best friend Megs is chosen, they hope to help their families but fear they will be separated forever.

**Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery. \*\*\*\*\*** Lowery's dogged participation as a teen in the fight for equal civil rights—as told to Leacock and Buckley (collaborators on *Journeys for Freedom* and other titles)—offers a gripping story told in conversational language.

**Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan \*\*\*\*\*** Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each, in turn, become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives.