

## **Summer Reading assignments for Grade 8**

**Both of these assignments are due by Friday, August 30, 2019**

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?

## 8th Grade Summer Reading List

### **Redwall Series (Book #1) by Brian Jacques**

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

**All American Boys By Jason Reynolds** A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature. In this *New York Times* bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

### **Embassy Row Series (3 books) by Ally Carter**

This exciting new series focuses on Grace, who can best be described as a daredevil, an Army brat, and a rebel. She is also the only granddaughter of perhaps the most powerful ambassador in the world, and Grace has spent every summer of her childhood running across the roofs of Embassy Row. Now, at age sixteen, she's come back to stay—in order to solve the mystery of her mother's death.

**Irena's Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2,500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto by Tilar J. Mazzeo** This is the incredible story of a brave woman who would do anything to save the lives of innocent children during the world's bleakest times. This courageous woman risked her life to save innocent children from the Holocaust - a truly heroic tale of survival, resilience, and redemption.

### **Salt to the Sea by Ruth Sepetys**

A group of teenage refugees meet on the road in the chaotic countryside of East Prussia in winter 1945. The Nazi Reich is collapsing all around them, and they, like hundreds of thousands, are fleeing the wrathful Soviet advance.

**The Bitter Side of Sweet by Tara Sullivan** Inspired by true-to-life events happening right now, this is an exquisitely written tour de force not to be missed. Fifteen-year-old 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.

**Maya Lin: Thinking with Her Hands by Susan Goldman Rubin \*\*\*\*\*** Maya Lin, an artist's biography told through the different art forms in which she created some of the most important memorials in the United States.

**Once was a Time by Leila Sales \*\*\*\*\*** Charlotte and her friend are kidnapped by the Nazis leaving her with a split second decision when a portal opens up. She jumps into the future not knowing what happened to the life she left behind..

**Restart by Gordon Korman \*\*\*\*\*** Eighth grader Chase Andrews fell off of his roof and suffered total amnesia. When Chase goes back to school, he is torn between old football loyalties and new video club friends. Is once a bully always a bully or can he truly RESTART his life?