

8th Grade Summer Reading

The books on this list are not required, simply suggestions from Mrs. Harland, HAJH Librarian. Keep in mind that you will encounter many mysterious, hilarious, sinister, adventurous, fantastic, and even frightening things in these books. Read them if you dare.



Funny Books

Bagdasarian, Adam. First French Kiss and Other Traumas.

A collection of short stories that relate the humorous, sad, traumatic, romantic, and confusing events of a boy's life.

Colville, Bruce. The Skull of Truth.

Hilarious story featuring a talking skull who forces people to tell the truth woven into an environmental political fight.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. Bud, Not Buddy.

Ever think about running away from home? Bud, not Buddy is on the lam. He's running away from his orphanage with a suitcase filled with pictures and rocks. He's constantly quoting from his own "Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar out of Yourself." This book about depression era Michigan is the 2000 Newberry Award winner.

Pevsner, Stella. Would My Fortune Cookie Lie?

While worrying that her mom is plotting to move the family from their Chicago home, thirteen-year-old Alexis also wonders about the mysterious young man who seems to be shadowing her and her friend.

Rennison, Louise. Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging. (also parts 2 and 3)

These are the hysterical tell-all diaries of a middle school girl named Georgia who is concerned with pimples, fashion, and boys.

Venokur, Ross. The Autobiography of Meatball Finkelstein.

13-year-old Meatball, an overweight vegetarian, discovers that eating meatballs gives him the magic power of turning into anything he wants, and he uses this ability to fight his principal's diabolical plot to eliminate fun from the planet.

Science Fiction / Fantasy



Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Game.

Aliens have attacked Earth and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses and then training them in the arts of war. The early training takes the form of games. Ender is a 6 year old genius among geniuses; he wins all the games. He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

Cart, Michael. Tomorrowland: stories about the future.

Welcome to Tomorrowland where the future can be as distant as Mars, as near as your next heartbeat, or as indelible as last night's tattoo. This is a collection of ten writers stories about time travel, the past, and the future.

Farmer, Nancy. The House of the Scorpion.

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire called Opium, nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Gaimen, Neil. Neverwhere.

Richard Mayhew, a bumbling young businessman, who is about to discover a new side of London after helping a wounded girl named Door. Neil Gaimen is famous for his comic book series: *Sandman*.

Pullman, Phillip. His Dark Materials series.

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Thompson, Kate. Switchers.

Tess has a secret. She can change herself into any animal. Kevin, too, is a switcher, and their shared abilities render them unlikely companions, as she reluctantly joins in an effort to save the world from the threat of another ice age.

Tolkien, J.R.R. Anything.

Mysteries

Giberga, Jane. Friends to Die For.

Sophisticated 16-year old girls in New York get involved in a murder at a party.

Giles, Gail. Dead Girls Don't Write Letters.

Fourteen-year-old Sunny is stunned when a total stranger shows up at her house posing as her older sister Jazz, who supposedly died in a fire months earlier.

Korman, Gordan. Jake Reinvented.

Rick becomes friends with the popular new boy, Jake Garrett, football player and host of superlative parties, and in the process discovers the true nature of his schoolmates and uncovers the mystery of Jake's past.

Roberts, Willo Davis. The Kidnappers.

Remember the little boy who cried wolf? You don't want to earn a reputation of being a liar. When Joey is the only person to see the school bully being kidnapped, nobody believes his story. The truth is, however, that the bully has actually been kidnapped and the only people who believe that Joey saw it happen are the kidnappers themselves. Now Joey himself is in danger, too.

Realistic & Adventure



Banks, Kate. Walk Softly, Rachel.

When 14-year-old Rachel reads the journal of her brother, who died when she was seven, she learns secrets that help her understand her parents and herself.

Deuker, Carl. High Heat.

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private schooling begins to fall apart.

Flake, Sharon. Begging for Change.

Teenager Raspberry Hill, off the streets after years of homelessness with her mother, steals money from one of her best friends and wonders if she is no different than her recently returned, drug-addicted, thieving father.

Fleischman, Paul. Whirligig.

Brent kills a teenage girl while driving home drunk from a party. Since the victim loved whirligigs, her mother asks Brent to build four and plant them in the four corners of the U.S. - Washington, California, Florida and Maine.

Going, K. L. Fat Kids Rule the World.

Seventeen-year-old Troy, depressed, suicidal, and weighing nearly 300 pounds, gets a new perspective on life when a homeless teenager who is a genius on guitar wants Troy to be the drummer in his rock band.

Henkes, Kevin. Olive's Ocean.

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

Horowitz, Anthony. Stormbreaker. & Skeleton Key.

14 yr. old Alex Rider takes over his uncle's mission as a top-secret spy working for the British government. He must outsmart terrorists before they murder every child in England.

Koss, Amy Goldman. The Cheat.

When Sarah gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging.

Prose, Francine. After.

In the aftermath of a nearby school shooting, a grief and crisis counselor takes over Central High School and enacts increasingly harsh measures to control students, while those who do not comply disappear.

Randle, Kristen D. Slumming.

In their senior year of high school, three best friends, Nikki, Alicia, and Sam, attempt an "experiment" in which they each befriend a classmate they think needs attention and try to improve that person's life.

Horror



Atwater-Rhodes, Amelia. In the Forests of the Night.

A teenage vampire, wanders back in time to the year 1684 when, as a human, she died and was transformed against her will.

Bunting, Eve. The Presence.

While visiting her grandmother in California, 17-year-old Catherine comes in contact with a mysterious stranger who says he can help her contact a friend who died in a car crash for which Catherine feels responsible.

Burgess, Melvin. The Ghost Behind the Wall.

Twelve-year-old David sneaks through the ventilation shafts in his London apartment building pulling pranks on his neighbors, which awakens the ghost of a boy with a grudge against the lonely, senile old man who lives upstairs.

Cabot, Meg. Haunted: A Tale of the Mediator.

Sixteen-year-old Susannah Simon is a mediator, one who communicates with the dead, and she also happens to be in love with Jesse, a nineteenth-century ghost.

Deaver, Julie Reece, The Night I Disappeared.

Something scary is happening to 17-year-old Jamie Tessman. Ever since she and her mother arrived in Chicago, she's been plagued by freaky mind-slips and vivid daydreams. When Jamie's inner world starts taking her hostage she becomes terrified that she is slowly losing her mind.

Griffin, Peni R. The Ghost Sitter.

For 50 years, 10-year-old Susie has been waiting for her parents to come back. Each family that moves into her home seems not to notice her, except for the children. Susie likes children and she even likes to baby-sit, but can she baby-sit forever?

Hahn, Mary Downing. Look for Me by Moonlight.

A ghost haunts a family living in Maine.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Jade Green : A Ghost Story.

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small mistake causes mysterious happenings.

Seabrooke, Brenda. The Haunting at Stratton Falls.

At Christmastime in 1944, while staying with disagreeable cousins in New York State because her father is in Europe fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Abby discovers that her relatives' old house is haunted by the ghost of a girl from the Civil War era.

Shan, Darren. Cirque Du Freak.

Two boys who are best friends visit an illegal freak show, where an encounter with a vampire and a deadly spider forces them to make life-changing choices.

Wallace, Rich. Restless.

Frank, a teenaged ghost who has not been able to move on to a higher realm in the afterlife, tries to connect with his younger brother Herbie, a high school senior who was eight years old when Frank died.