

Beaumont Middle School Summer Reading List Grade 8

All students who will be attending Beaumont Middle School in the eighth grade are required to read three books over the summer. Please choose from the books listed below. These books can be found at the Lexington Public Library and local book stores. Upon returning to school from summer break, students will be tested over the books that they have read.

1. **Amulet of Samarkand** – Jonathan Stroud.
This fantasy adventure book is set in modern-day London flavored with magicians and chaos. You will enjoy reading about Nathaniel, a young magician’s apprentice learning his first lessons in the arts of magic.
2. **Angels Watching Over Me** – Michael Phillips
Two young Southern girls, one the daughter of a slave and the other the daughter of a plantation owner, lose both of their families in the Civil War. The girls join together to try and make a life for themselves.
3. **Battle of Jericho** – Sharon M. Draper
Jericho's school has a great club that all boys long to be a part of: The Warriors of Distinction. It's been around for years (Jericho's uncle was even a part of it), and it's known for it's good deeds and the closeness of the members. Every year new members are inducted into the group, and this year Jericho has been invited to join. Before they can be called Warriors, though, they must go through an initiation process, which lasts a week.
4. **Chinese Cinderella** – Adeline Yen Mah
After the death of her mother, Adeline endures a life of abuse from her family. Read this memoir to learn about the challenges she faced growing up in China.
5. **A Corner of the Universe** – Ann M. Martin
Twelve-year-old Hattie’s small town life is flipped upside down when an uncle, who she didn’t even know, returns home from a school for the mentally disabled. Hattie and her uncle develop a special friendship, share secrets, and learn from each other.
6. **A Day No Pigs Would Die** – Robert Newton Peck
To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns, “Doing what’s got to be done,” especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.
7. **Fever 1793** – Laurie Halse Anderson
A historical fiction novel, told through the eyes of fourteen-year-old Mattie, that details the horrors of the Philadelphia Yellow Fever epidemic in 1793.

8. **Frankenstein** – Mary Shelley
A chilling classic book about Victor, a curious individual who comes up with the idea of recreating life after it has been destroyed. Victor regrets making his creation after the monster causes destruction to those around him.
9. **Out of the Dust** – Karen Hesse
In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates to the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
10. **Peak** – Roland Smith
A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.
11. **The River Between Us** – Richard Peck
Take a trip back in time by reading about the Pruitt family's experiences during the Civil War.
12. **A Separate Peace** – John Knowles
This book, set in New England during World War II, is about two boys with extremely different personalities who are best friends. They attend a private boarding school during their last summer before being old enough to face the war.
13. **Slam** – Walter Dean Myers
A realistic fiction book about Slam, a star high school basketball player, who is faced with many struggles such as family, culture, socioeconomics, and his attitude.
14. **Touching Spirit Bear** – Ben Mikaelson
Cole Matthews, an angry young man who has been stealing and fighting for years, is banished for one year to a remote Alaskan island.
15. **Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion** – Loree Griffin Burns
This book describes the work of oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer who tracks trash as it travels unbelievable distances by way of our ocean currents. From sneakers to hockey gloves to toys, these scientists monitor the watery fate of human-made cargo that has spilled into the ocean.
16. **Uncle Tom's Cabin** – Harriet Beecher Stowe
This Compelling classic book, written in 1852, highlights pre-civil war life and provides the reader with stunning images of slave life during this period.