

SCAPA'S 2026 8th Grade Summer Reading Lists

Summer reading is an attempt to prevent students from losing their reading skills during the two-month break. "Children who are readers add between 3,000 and 5,000 new words to their vocabulary every year through incidental exposure". (Nagy, Anderson, and Herman 1987) Reading comprehension and speed also improve as students add vocabulary words. We encourage you to read with your children and discuss their books. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to teach them those invaluable critical thinking skills they will need to develop in order to be successful in both school and the workplace. No time to read with your child? No problem. Host a book club for your child and their peers. They can read and discuss their books together just like adults do.

The books below may be located at the public libraries and at local or on-line bookstores. They reflect the themes of literature we will be discussing in the upcoming school year. However, only you know what is appropriate for your children, so we recommend you assist them in making selections which meet your expectations. In addition, we have listed the Lexile Reading Level next to each title along with the Lexile Reading Level Charts for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. This should help you assist your child in choosing the most appropriate books for his/her current reading level. Lexile levels are determined by sentence length as well as vocabulary, so the more dialogue a book has, the shorter the sentences. This can lead to below level Lexile Level scores for books which are still appropriate for your child's grade level.

6th Grade Lexile Level: 925-1070

7th Grade Lexile Level: 970-1120

8th Grade Lexile Level: 1010-1185

8th Grade English Language Arts

Prior to the beginning of school, students must read one of the following books for their English and social studies classes. As they read, they should look up any vocabulary words they are unfamiliar with. We also recommend students take notes since they may use these notes, and the book, when they take the Accelerated Reading tests for the books they read during the summer. Each quarter 8th grade students are expected to earn AR Points, and any AR points earned for summer reading will count toward the first quarter AR goal. NOTE: Extra points do not carry over to the next quarter. Students should expect an assignment related to summer reading.

8th Grade English Reading List (Mrs. Aldridge)

THEME: Rites of Passage

1. Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card (780)
2. Eragon by Christopher Paolini (710)
3. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (1300)
4. Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline (890)
5. Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins (800)
6. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins (860)
7. The Giver by Lois Lowry (760)
8. The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier (820)
9. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith (810)
10. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (990)
11. Refugee by Alan Gratz (800)
12. My Antonia by Willa Cather (1010)

English I Reading List (Mrs. Adkins)

Choose one of the following books to read this summer:

- *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho
- *Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (non-fiction)

As you read, use Post-It notes to annotate your book. You may want to consider writing or bullet-pointing a short summary at the end of each chapter to use when you take the AR test upon returning in the Fall.

**8th Grade Social Studies: Mr. Spaeth
Allen, Thomas B.**

- Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union

Anderson, Laurie Halse

- During the Civil War (1120)

Bolden, Tonya

- Emancipation Proclamation: Lincoln and the Dawn of Liberty (1160)

Davis, Kenneth

- In the Shadow of Liberty (1110)

Douglass, Frederick

- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1117)

McClafferty, Carla Killough

- The Many Faces of George Washington: Remaking a Presidential Icon (1140)

Osborne, Linda Barrett

- This Land is Our Land (1080)

Schanzer, Rosalyn

- Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem (1109)

Sheinkin, Steve

- Lincoln's Grave Robbers (930)
- The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery (1061)

Swanson, James L.

- Chasing Lincoln's Killer (1080)

Walker, Sally M.

- Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland (1201)

Washington, Booker T.

- Up From Slavery (1140)