

Summer 2017 Reading List 8th Grade: SCAPA

At SCAPA, we require that the incoming 8th grade students read a total of three books over the summer. Please keep in mind that this requirement is an attempt to prevent students from losing their reading skills during the 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.

The books below may be located at the public libraries and at local or on-line book stores. They were chosen because of their relationship to core content, so they reflect a variety of genres, time periods, and themes. 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. Please keep in mind that 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: 800-1030

7th Grade Lexile Level: 880-1090

8th Grade Lexile Level: 910-1140

English (Choose one book from the list below.)

Alexie, Sherman

- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (600)

Anderson, Laurie Halse

- Catalyst (580)

Brown, Jennifer

- Hate List (760)

Cormier, Robert

- The Chocolate War (820)
- Beyond the Chocolate War (810)

Crutcher, Chris

- Whale Talk (1000)

Flake, Sharon

- The Skin I’m In (670)

Garden, Nancy

- Endgame (870)

Hutchinson, Shaun David et al.

- Violent Ends (749)

Knowles, John

- A Separate Peace (1030)

Koja, Kathe

- Buddha Boy (1090)

Koss, Amy Goldman

- Poison Ivy (840)

Littman, Sarah Darer

- Backlash (770)

Myers, Walter Dean

- Shooter (690)

Pixley, Marcella

- Freak (750)

Strasser, Todd

- The Wave (770)

Yousafzai, Malala

- I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) (830)

Zusak, Markus

- The Book Thief (730)

Science (Choose one book from the list below.)

Cooney, Caroline

- Code Orange (941)

DeFelice, Cynthia

- The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker (811)

Goodall, Jane

- In the Shadow of Man (1178)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

- Double Identity (781)

Herriot, James

- All Creatures Great and Small (1009)
- All Things Bright and Beautiful (999)
- All Things Wise and Wonderful (999)
- The Lord God Made Them All (989)

Hickam, Homer

- Rocket Boys (910)

Kelly, Jacqueline

- The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate (829)

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw

- Charles Darwin: The Life of a Revolutionary Thinker (1211)

Pfeffer, Susan Beth

- Life As We Knew It (731)

Preston, Richard

- The Hot Zone (1061)

Werlin, Nancy

- Double Helix (781)

Social Studies (Choose one book from the list below.)

Allen, Thomas B.

- Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War (1120)

Anderson, Laurie Halse

- Chains (811)
- Fever 1793 (681)
- Independent Dames: What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution (931)

Aronson, Mark and Budhos, Barina

- Sugar Changed the World (1121)

Auch, Mary Jane

- Ashes of Roses (681)

Avi

- The Fighting Ground (650)
- Sophia's War (730)

Bolden, Tonya

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

Bowe, Andy Russell

- The Back of Beyond: A Story About Lewis and Clark (1009)

Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher Collier

- Jump Ship to Freedom (829)

Cushman, Karen

- The Ballad of Lucy Whipple (899)

Davis, Kenneth

- In the Shadow of Liberty (1110)

Douglass, Frederick

- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1117)

Fast, Howard

- April Morning (931)

Fleischman, Paul

- Bull Run (829)

Fox, Paula

- Slave Dancer (921)

Fritz, Jean

- Brady (870)
- Why Not, Lafayette? (999)

Kendall, Martha E.

- Susan B. Anthony: Voice for Women's Voting Rights (1109)

Klages, Ellen

- The Green Glass Sea (720)

Krass, Peter

- Sojourner Truth (1152)

Lester, Julius

- To Be a Slave (1019)

Levinson, Cynthia

- We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March (1020)

McClafferty, Carla Killough

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

McCully, Emily Arnold

- Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business—and Won! (1120)

Monfredo, Miriam Grace

- North Star Conspiracy (931)

Myers, Walter Dean

- The Glory Field (781)

Osborne, Linda Barrett

- This Land is Our Land (1080)

Patterson, Katherine

- Lyddie (870)

Peck, Richard

- The River Between Us (769)

Petry, Ann

- Harriett Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad (989)

Reeder, Carolyn

- Shades of Gray (829)

Rinaldi, Ann

- Mine Eyes Have Seen (631)
- Numbering the Bones (650)
- The Fifth of March (888)

Robinet, Harriett Gillem

- Forty Acres and a Mule (669)

Schanzer, Rosalyn

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

Sheinkin, Steve

- Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal- the World's Most Dangerous Weapon (920)
- Lincoln's Grave Robbers (930)
- Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights (950)
- The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism, and Treachery (1061)

Speare, Elizabeth George

- The Witch of Blackbird Pond (888)

Stone, Tanya Lee

- Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickels, America's First Black Paratroopers (1090)

Sullivan, George

- Tom Thumb: The Remarkable True Story of a Man in Miniature (1010)

Swanson, James L.

- Chasing Lincoln's Killer (1080)
- The President Has Been Shot! The Assassination of John F. Kennedy (1080)

Walker, Sally M.

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

Washington, Booker T.

- Up From Slavery (1140)

Yates, Elizabeth

- Amos Fortune: Free Man (979)