



# Entering Eighth Grade Summer Reading

| Suggested Book Title                            | Author                          | Sneak Preview  |
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| <b>Required Reading:</b><br><b>Fever - 1793</b> | Laura Halse Anderson<br>Fiction | During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.   |
| <b>Angel Experiment, The</b>                    | James Patterson<br>Fiction      | In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock" are just like ordinary kids only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time.  |
| <b>Becoming Naomi Leon</b>                      | Pam Muñoz Ryan<br>Fiction       | The life that Naomi knows with Gram and her little brother is unraveling. Naomi's alcoholic mother wants to kidnap her. Gram is willing to go to the ends of the earth to save Naomi, but will it be enough? A quiet life in Lemon Tree, California, becomes a runaway journey to find an estranged father in Oaxaca, Mexico.  |
| <b>Chasing Lincoln's Killer</b>                 | James Swanson<br>Nonfiction     | This story is true. All the characters are real and were alive during the great manhunt of April 1865. Their words are authentic and come from original sources: letters, manuscripts, trial transcripts, newspapers, government reports, pamphlets, books and other documents.  |
| <b>Code Orange</b>                              | Caroline B. Cooney<br>Fiction   | While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.  |
| <b>Drums, Girls &amp; Dangerous Pie</b>         | Jordan Sonnenblick<br>Fiction   | Steven is a typical eight-grader-smarter than some, a better drummer than most, but with the usual girl problems and family trials. Then in October, Steven's younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia. Steven soon becomes the forgotten son who throws himself into drumming, quits doing his homework, and tries to keep his friends from finding out about his brother's illness. <b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b>   |
| <b>Ender's Game</b>                             | Orson Scott Card<br>Fiction     | In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives. <b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b> |
| <b>Eye of the Crow</b>                          | Shane Peacock<br>Fiction        | Sherlock Holmes, just thirteen, is a misfit. His highborn mother is the daughter of an aristocratic family, his father a poor Jew. Their marriage flouts tradition and makes them social pariahs in the London of the 1860s; and their son, Sherlock, bears the burden of their rebellion. Friendless, bullied at school, he belongs nowhere and has only his wits to help him make his way.   |

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| <b>Forge</b>  | Laurie Halse Anderson<br>Fiction | In this compelling sequel to <i>Chains</i> acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson shifts perspective from Isabel to Curzon and brings to the page the tale of what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in a world of obstacles—and in the midst of the American Revolution. The Patriot Army was shaped and strengthened by the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter. This is where Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of discovery, for he is an escaped slave passing for free. And then there is Isabel, who is also at Valley Forge—against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom.<br><b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b> |
| <b>A Fire in My Hands</b>   | Gary Soto<br>Poetry              | A book of poems about growing up.  |
| <b>Hero</b>   | Mike Lupica<br>Fiction           | Fourteen-year-old Billy Harriman can feel the changes. The sharpening of his senses. The incredible strength. The speed, as though he can text message himself across miles. The confidence and the strange need to patrol Central Park at night. His dad had been a hero, a savior to America and a confidante of the president. Then he died, and the changes began in Billy.  |
| <b>Hidden Talents</b>   | David Lubar<br>Fiction           | Martin Anderson and his friends don't like being called losers. But they've been called that for so long even they start to believe it. Until Martin makes an incredible discovery: each of his friends has a special <i>hidden</i> talent.  |
| <b>Mick Harte Was Here</b>  | Barbara Park<br>Fiction          | How could someone like Mick die? This is the hilarious kid who freaked his mom out by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, who did a wild solo dance in front of the whole school because the music got in his pants, and the kid who, if he'd only worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive now. Phoebe has great memories of her brother, but cannot see how her family will ever pick up the pieces and move on. <b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b>   |
| <b>Money Hungry</b>   | Sharon Flake<br>Fiction          | After living on the streets with her mother, thirteen-year-old Raspberry is consumed with making money to prevent the frightening experience from repeating itself.  |
| <b>Night Hoops</b>  | Carl Deuker<br>Fiction           | Nick is a sophomore in high school and wants to be the star basketball player more than anything. Nick has to face his angry neighbor, Trent, who is also on the team. The boys start to become friends as they practice playing basketball every night.   |
| <b>Nothing But the Truth</b>  | Avi<br>Fiction                   | Determined to get even with English teacher Miss Narwin for keeping him off the track team, Philip Malloy decides to hum along with the tape of "The Star-Spangled Banner," in violation of school rules.  |
| <b>Numbering All the Bones</b>  | Ann Rinaldi<br>Fiction           | Thirteen-year-old Eulinda is torn between being a slave and being the master's daughter. When asked to go North, Eulinda must refuse because she has important work to complete before leaving the South.<br><b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b>  |
| <b>Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard</b> | Mawi Asgedom<br>Nonfiction       | An autobiography of a boy who, at the age of three, fled civil war Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a scholarship to Harvard University.  |
| <b>Out of My Mind</b>   | Sharon M. Draper<br>Fiction      | Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but no one knows it. Most people, her teachers and doctors include don't think she's capable of learning, and until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows...but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. <b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b>  |

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| <b>Out of the Dust</b>                                 | Karen Hess<br>Verse/Fiction                     | A poem cycle that reads as a novel, <i>Out of the Dust</i> tells the story of a girl named Billie Jo, who struggles to help her family survive the dust-bowl years of the Depression. Fighting against the elements on her Oklahoma farm, Billie Jo takes on even more responsibilities when her mother dies in a tragic accident. A testament to the American spirit, this novel is an instant classic.   |
| <b>People Could Fly, The</b>                           | Virginia Hamilton<br>Nonfiction                 | This book retells African-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, which were born of the sorrow of the slaves but passed on in hope.   |
| <b>Pictures of Hollis Woods</b>                        | Patricia Reilly Giff<br>Fiction                 | Hollis Woods was an infant when she was abandoned and for 12 years she has been transferred from one foster home to another. To the social agency, she is a "mountain of trouble" because she skips school and runs away, even from the Regans, a family willing to give her a real home. When she is placed with Josie, an elderly artist who is becoming very forgetful, Hollis begins to feel needed and doesn't ever want to leave this eccentric old woman who knows a lot about friendship and love.   |
| <b>Popularity Papers</b>                               | Amy Ignatow<br>Fiction                          | BFFs Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang are now separated by a most inhospitable ocean, but nothing apparently can abate the strength of their friend. In this rib-tickling addition to Amy Ignatow's diary series, the junior high pair buzz messages back and forth across the Atlantic.   |
| <b>Rules</b>   | Cynthia Lord<br>Fiction                         | "No toys in the fish tank" is one of many rules that twelve-year-old Catherin shares with her autistic younger brother, David, to help him understand his world. Torn between love for her brother and impatience with the responsibilities and embarrassment he brings, she strives to be on her parents' radar and to establish an identity of her own.  |
| <b>The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez</b>             | Allan Lawrence Sitomer<br>Fiction               | California-born Sonia Rodriguez, 15, the daughter of illegal Mexican immigrants, is determined to be the first high school graduate in her family.   |
| <b>Scorpions</b>                                       | Walter Dean Meyers<br>Fiction                   | Jamal, who is pressured to become leader of the Scorpions gang, worries about school, family, and the rough kids on the street. When a fellow gang member gives him a gun, Jamal suddenly gains a new level of respect from his enemies. A realistic look at a boy who wants to do the right thing but gets caught up in the culture of violence.  |
| <b>Smiles to Go</b>                                    | Norristown Hometown<br>Author<br>Jerry Spinelli | Will Tuppence is a young man whose world is suddenly tipped on its side. Will soon begins to see that the beauty and wonder of life's journey is in <i>not</i> knowing what comes next.  |
| <b>Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps</b> | Andrea Warren<br>Biography/Nonfiction           | Mandelvaum had lived a comfortable life with his family in Poland until the German invasion forced them to flee to a relative's village in 1939. Later, when the Jews were sent to concentration camps, the twelve-year-old became separated from the rest of his family and is sent to the Blechhammer concentration camp.  |
| <b>Treasure Island</b>                                 | Robert Louis Stevenson<br>Fiction               | Young Jim Hawkins finds himself on a fabulous adventure in search of buried treasure with a band of cutthroat buccaneers. Will Jim's friend Long John Silver stand by his side, or deceive him for his own gain?   |
| <b>The House on Mango St.</b>                          | Sandra Cisneros<br>Fiction                      | The classic of Latin American Literature tells the story of Esperanza, who lives in a poor Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago. Told in a series of vignettes, Esperanza tries to leave, while realizing the house on Mango Street will always be with her.   |
| <b>Dancing Home</b>                                    | Alma Flor Ada<br>Gabriel M. Zubizarreta         | Mexico may be her parents' home, but it's certainly not Margie's. She has finally convinced the other kids at school she is one-hundred percent American — just like them. But when her Mexican cousin Lupe visits, the image she's created for herself crumbles. Things aren't easy for Lupe, either. Mexico hadn't felt like home since her father went North to find work. Lupe, as much as Margie, is in need of a friend. Little by little, the girls' individual steps find the rhythm of one shared dance, and they learn what "home" really means. |

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| <p><b>Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting</b></p> | <p>Jim Murphy<br/>Nonfiction</p> | <p>On July 29, 1914, the world's peace was shattered as the artillery of the Austro-Hungarian empire began shelling the troops of the country to its south. What followed was like a row of falling dominoes as one European country after another rushed to war. Soon most of Europe was fighting in this calamitous war that could have been avoided. This was, of course, World War I. But who could have guessed that on December 25 the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their "enemies?" <b>Reading Olympic Book 2017</b></p> |
| <p><b>How Tía Lola Learned to Teach</b></p>                | <p>Gary Soto</p>                 | <p>In thirteen stories full of wit and energy, Gary Soto illuminates the ordinary lives of young people. Meet Angel, who would rather fork over twenty bucks than have photos of his naked body plastered all over school; Phillip, who discovers he has a "mechanical mind," whatever that means; Estela, known as Stinger, who rules José's heart and the racquetball court; and many other kids, all of them with problems as big as only a preteen can make them.</p>   |
| <p><b>Magazine Titles:</b></p>                             |                                  |   |
|  |                                  | <p>Discovery Girls<br/>National Geographic<br/>Newsweek<br/>Skateboard<br/>Smithsonian<br/>Sports Illustrated</p>   |