

6th – 8th Grade 2024 Summer Reading Assignment

Please read two novels this Summer, one in July and one in August. Choose a book you have not read before, read it in entirety, and then write a review about the book. A list of recommended books is attached to this form.

This is a book review. Your responses should be written out in paragraph form. Use appropriate spelling, grammar, and capitalization.

Things to include:

- Book title and author.
- What genre does the book fit into?
- A summary of the plot.
- When and where the action takes place
 - Does the author do a respectable job making you feel there?

How?

- Are the main characters believable? Does the author adequately describe them?
- Comments on the book's strengths and weaknesses.
- What do you like or dislike about the author's writing style?
- Describe a scene that really moved you.
- Write your opinion about the book.

Please bring your finished reviews to school on the first day of class.

6th Grade Recommended:

Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone

Tae Keller 4.18

2,369 ratings 457 reviews

A story about a girl who is alienated by her friends . . . for believing in aliens.

Sometimes middle school can make you feel like you are totally alone in the universe...but what if we aren't alone at all?

Mallory Moss knows how the world works. After meeting the cool girl, Reagan, she finally has a best friend, and Reagan makes Mallory feel like she belongs, like she can fit in this infinite universe, as long as she follows Reagan's simple rules: wear the right clothes, control your image, know your place.

But when Jennifer Chan moves into the house across the street, those rules don't feel quite so simple anymore. Because Jennifer is different. She does not seem to care about the laws of middle school, or the laws of the universe. She is willing to embrace the strange, the unknown... the extraterrestrial. She believes in aliens—and what's more, she thinks she can find them.

Then Jennifer goes missing. The adults say she ran away...but where is she going? And why? Using clues in Jennifer's journals about alien encounters, Mallory attempts to find her. But the closer she gets; the more Mallory must confront why Jennifer might have run ... and face the truth within herself.

My Side of the Mountain

by Jean Craighead George (Author)

4.7 4.7 out of 5 stars_ 6,314 ratings

"Should appeal to all rugged individualists who dream of escape to the forest."—*The New York Times Book Review*

Sam Gibley is terribly unhappy living in New York City with his family, so he runs away to the Catskill Mountains to live in the woods—all by himself. With only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel, he intends to survive on his own. Sam learns about courage, danger, and

7th Grade Recommended:

The Book Thief by Markus Zasad

In 1938, the young girl Liesel Meminger is traveling by train with her mother and her younger brother when he dies. Her mother buries the boy in a cemetery by the tracks and Liesel picks up a book, "The Gravediggers Handbook", which was left on the grave of her brother and brings it with her. Liesel is delivered to a foster family in a small town and later she learns that her mother left her because she is a communist. Her stepmother, Rosa Hubermann, is a rude but caring woman and her stepfather, Hans Hubermann, is a simple kind-hearted man. Liesel befriends her next door neighbor, the boy Rudy Steiner, and they go together to the school. When Hans discovers that Liesel cannot read, he teaches her using her book and Liesel becomes an obsessed reader. During a Nazi speech where the locals are forced to burn books in a bonfire, Liesel recovers one book for her, and the mayor's wife Ilsa Hermann witnesses her action. Meanwhile Hans hides the Jewish Max Vandenburg, who is the son of a deceased friend that saved his life in the war, in the basement of his house and Liesel becomes his friend. One day, Rosa asks Liesel to deliver laundry to the Mayor and Ilsa invites Liesel to go to her library and tells her that she can visit her to read whenever she wants. But in times of war there are many threats and the lives of Liesel, her family and friends will never be the same.

Number the Stars Lois Lowry 4.19

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think of life before the war. It's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching through town. When the Jews of Denmark are "relocated," Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be one of the family. Soon Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save Ellen's life.

New Kid Jerry Craft

Goodreads Choice Award

Nominee for Best Middle Grade & Children's (2019)

8th Grade Recommended:

Brainwalker | By Robyn Mundell and Stephen Lacast

Bernard has always felt out of place. Just like any other kid who always asks that odd question in the class and comes up with impractical and over-imaginative ideas that make no sense to adults. One fine day when he accompanied his father to his office, after being reprimanded for his behavior in school, Bernard does what any other fourteen-year-old boy does. He wandered in the office looking for the particle collider. However, as the collider roars into life, with Bernard in its vicinity, he travels through a wormhole and enters a different world. It does not take long for him to figure out that this world was in fact his father's brain and if he didn't act fast his father's life could be in danger.

Homecoming Cynthia Voigt

It's still true...

That's the first thing James Tillerman says to his sister Dicey every morning. It's still true that their mother has abandoned the four Tillerman children somewhere in the middle of Connecticut. It's still true they have to find their way, somehow, to Great-aunt Cilla's house in Bridgeport, which may be their only hope of staying together as a family.

But when they get to Bridgeport, they learn that Great-aunt Cilla has died, and the home they find with her daughter, Eunice, isn't the permanent haven they've been searching for. So, their journey continues to its unexpected conclusion -- and some surprising discoveries about their history, and their future.

Northwind Gary Paulsen

The story of a young person's battle to stay alive against the odds, where the high seas meet a coastal wilderness.

When a deadly plague reaches the small fish camp where he lives, an orphan named Leif is forced to take to the water in a cedar canoe. He flees northward, following a wild, fjord-riven shore, navigating from one danger to