

## Suggested Reading for Grade 8

The following titles are recommended as summer reading both to maintain fluency and reading level and to encourage independent reading. Students may find these titles at libraries and bookstores.

**1. Beller, Susan.** *Cadets At War: The True Story of Teenage Heroism at the Battle of New Market.*

The story of 280 schoolboys who fought during the Civil War to stop the Union troops.

**2. Collier, James L. and Christopher.** *With Every Drop of Blood.*

Although Johnny promises his dying father he will not desert the family to fight for the rebel cause, the lure of adventure and financial gain are strong. The book realistically focuses on the reasons the Civil War was fought as well as the enormity of the suffering of soldiers and civilians.

**3. Cooney, Caroline.** *Among Friends.*

Six high school juniors discover surprising things about themselves and their friends in the diaries they are asked to keep as a three-month English assignment.

**4. Cooney, Caroline.** *Out of Time.*

In this sequel to *Both Sides of Time*, Anne Lockwood returns to New York City in the 1890s where she discovers her friends from her former trip are suffering through hard times. As a time traveler, she must learn nineteenth-century ways to help her friends.

**5. Curtis, Christopher Paul.** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963.*

A family story, both comic and moving, touches on the frightening times of the early civil rights movement.

**6. Dubois, Muriel L.** *Abenaki Captive.*

This historical narrative tells the story of the growth of hatred and fierce competition between a nineteen-year-old Abenaki warrior, Ogistin, and Vermont settler, John Stark.

**7. Filipovic, Zlata.** *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo.*

This personal narrative of life, death, and the loss of childhood depicts Zlata's life before and during the war in Bosnia.

**8. Freedman, Russell.** *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery.*

A biography of one of this century's most outstanding, inspirational women.

**9. Hesse, Karen.** *Letters from Rifka.*

In a series of letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl reveals the struggles of her family's flight from Russia in 1919.

**10. Hite, Sid.** *It's Nothing to a Mountain.*

After the death of their parents, Lisette and Riley go to live with their grandparents in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. There they experience a series of adventures that change their lives.

**11. Hoestlandt, Jo.** *Star of Fear, Star of Hope.*

During the German occupation of Paris, Helen becomes distraught when her best friend, a Jewish girl, disappears after they have quarreled.

**12. Klass, David.** *Danger Zone.*

In this thriller, Jimmy is recruited for an all-star basketball team scheduled to represent the U.S. in an international tournament. When they travel to Rome, the all-star teens are trapped in events beyond their understanding.

**13. Lewin, Ted.** *I Was a Teenage Professional Wrestler.*

The true-story account of how a children's illustrator earned his way through college.

**14. Myers, Walter Dean.** *Shadow of the Red Moon.*

Terrorists are about to attack Crystal City. In order to protect their children, parents send them to search for the Ancient Land.

**15. Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.** *Alice the Brave.*

For Alice, spending the summer around the pool should be ideal, but instead her secret

fear of drowning is revealed when a group of boys try to throw her into the pool. Her brother helps her to conquer her fears.

**16. Olaleye, Isaac.** *The Distant Talking Drum: Poems from Nigeria.*  
Fifteen original poems illustrated with folk art paintings.

**17. Paterson, Katherine.** *Lyddie.*

In an effort to gain independence, a poor girl from a Vermont farm leaves home and becomes a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts during the 1840s.

**18. Peck, Robert Newton.** *A Part of the Sky.*

A sequel to *A Day No Pigs Would Die*. Robert's coming-of-age story continues as the Peck family struggles to keep the family farm during the Depression.

**19. Plummer, Louise.** *The Unlikely Romance of Kate Bjorkman.*

Kate, seventeen, is writing a romance novel based on her real romance with her brother's friend, Richard. As time goes by Kate is able to reflect upon her relationship and her writing.

**20. Powell, Randy.** *Dean Duffy.*

Dean is assured of a scholarship until his pitching arm gives out and he bats only .052 in his last season. His future is questionable until he receives an offer from a small private college for a one-semester scholarship.

**21. Rosen, Michael J.** *A School for Pompey Walker.*

A true narrative of an escaped slave who returned to the South to raise money for a school by selling himself back into slavery again and again.

**22. Rostkowski, Margaret.** *Moon Dancer.*

Sixteen year old Miranda and her 21-year-old cousin Emily take part in a summer excursion into a southern Utah canyon to explore cliff dwellings of the Hopi people.

**23. Taylor, Mildred.** *The Well: David's Story.*

Despite the racial prejudice and injustice of the South in the early 1900s, the Logans share their well water.

**24. Taylor, Theodore.** *The Bomb.*

In 1946, sixteen-year-old Sorry and his family are confronted by U.S. military personnel who tell them their home will be used as a testing site for atomic bombs and that they may return in a few years!

**25. Wallace, Bill.** *Buffalo Gal.*

Fifteen-year-old Amanda finds herself leaving her refined life to accompany her mother to the Oklahoma Territory on a crusade to save the buffalo.

The following books may **NOT** be used for summer reading:

1. Where the Red Fern Grows
2. Johnny Tremain
3. The Giver
4. Hatchet
5. Number the Stars
6. Dacey's Song
7. The Outsiders
8. Z for Zachariah
9. My Brother Sam Is Dead
10. 20,000 Leagues under the Sea
11. The Cay
12. Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
13. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
14. Holes

