

SUMMER READING - BOOK OPTIONS

For those students entering 8th Grade

The following key will be helpful when selecting a book. Please keep this information in mind when making your selection.

IL = Interest level is based on a book's content including theme, characterization, and plot. The interest level attached to the book indicates age group appropriateness.

BL = Book Levels are reported using the ATOS readability formula and represent the difficulty of the text. For example, a book level of 4.5 means the text could likely be read independently by a student whose reading skills are at the level of a typical fourth grader during the fifth month of school. (Of course the content may or may not be appropriate for a fourth grader which is why we also use Interest Levels.)

MG = Middle grades (6-8) - For those students entering 8th Grade

MG+ = Middle grades plus (6 and up) - For those students entering 8th Grade who may appreciate challenges in grammar, content, and/or length

UL = Upper level (9-12) - For those students desiring a High School reading level.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants - by Ann Brashares - IL: UG, BL: 4.5

Over the summer, four friends share a second-hand pair of jeans (which happen to fit each one of them perfectly) and discover happiness, and all the complication of growing up.

The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett - IL: MG+, BL: 6.3

Ten-year-old Mary, after the death of her parents, comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors. Soon, she discovers an invalid cousin, a charming new friend, and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Twilight - Stephenie Meyer - IL: UG, BL: 4.9

When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human. Book 1.

New Moon - Stephenie Meyer - IL: UG, BL: 4.7

When the Cullens, including her beloved Edward, leave Forks rather than risk revealing that they are vampires, it is almost too much for eighteen-year-old Bella to bear, but she finds solace in her friend Jacob until he is drawn into a "cult" and changes in terrible ways. Book 2.

Eclipse - Stephenie Meyer - IL: UG, BL: 4.5

Bella must choose between her friendship with Jacob, a werewolf, and her relationship with Edward, a vampire, but when Seattle is ravaged by a mysterious string of killings, the three of them need to decide whether their personal lives are more important than the well-being of an entire city. Book 3.

Breaking Dawn - Stephenie Meyer - IL: UG, BL: 4.8

The final chapter of the Twilight saga continues the story of the human, Bella and the vampire, Edward whose love is threatened by their difference, a werewolf named Jacob, and other outside influences. Book 4.

Hoot - Carl Hiassen - IL: MG, BL: 5.2

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site - perfect for the nature lover in your family.

Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll - IL: MG, BL: 7.4

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters. This beloved novel has inspired countless television and movie productions. For the original story, characters, and magic, Lewis Carroll's popular tale is a must-read for all young readers.

The Lord of the Rings, Fellowship of the Ring - J.R.R. Tolkien - IL: UG, BL: 6.1

The first volume of a three-volume epic adventure set in the fantasy world of the Third Age of Middle-earth, a world inhabited by Hobbits, Elves, Dwarves, and Humans. Follow Frodo, as he and the Fellowship, attempt to defeat the Dark Lord, Saruman.

The Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers - J.R.R. Tolkien - IL: UG, BL: 6.3

In this second volume of Tolkien's epic fantasy, Frodo and his servant Sam Gamgee make their way eastward with the Ring while Frodo's companions are in danger from the traitor Saruman.

The Lord of the Rings, The Return of the King - J.R.R. Tolkien - IL: UG, BL: 6.2
As the Shadow of Mordor grows, the companions find their way through danger and mystery as they defeat the Dark Lord and celebrate Aragorn's ascent to become King of the West.

The Hobbit - J.R.R. Tolkien - IL: UG, BL: 6.6
The prequel for the Lord of the Rings series. See where it all began. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable hobbit, shares a fantastic adventure with a wandering wizard, as he comes into possession of a mystical ring.

The Outsiders- S.E. Hinton - IL: MG+, BL: 4.7
Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

The Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan - IL: MG, BL: 4.7
Troubled student Percy Jackson vaporizes his math teacher on a class field trip and he begins to suspect that his life is not what it seems. He discovers that his lifelong reading and attention troubles are all signs that he is a half-blood—a child of the Greek gods. After a summer training session with other demigods and Chiron the centaur, he sets off on a cross-country quest to Los Angeles to recover Zeus' lost thunderbolt and stop a war between the gods.

The Sea of Monsters - Rick Riordan - IL: MG, BL: 4.6
In this second installment in the series, Percy, Poseidon's 13-year-old demigod son, is desperate to rescue his friend Grover, captive of the bloodthirsty Cyclops Polyphemus, and to retrieve the healing Golden Fleece. The sheepskin is needed to restore the protection around Camp Half-Blood, the only safe haven for the children of gods and humans, heroes-in-training in our modern world.

The Titan's Curse - Rick Riordan - IL: MG, BL: 4.2
In this installment, Riordan continues to enliven ancient mythology with wit, contemporary staging, and teenage heroics. Percy Jackson is now 14, a bit older and wiser, yet still entangled with the Fates. Friends, monsters, dysfunctional gods, and the romantic stirrings of all things natural and mythological are encountered.

Catching Fire - Suzanne Collins - IL: MG+, BL: 5.3

By winning the annual Hunger Games, District 12 tributes Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark have secured a life of safety and plenty for themselves and their families, but because they won by defying the rules, they unwittingly become the faces of an impending rebellion. Book 2.

The Diary of a Young Girl / Anne Frank - edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler, translated by Susan Massotty - IL: MG+, BL: 6.5

A precocious 13 year old young girl is forced into hiding by the Nazi regime. The story, in Anne's own words, as to how she lived in seclusion with family and friends.

Tangerine - Edward Bloor - IL: MG, RL: 4.3

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Monster - Walter Dean Myers - IL: MG+, RL: 5.1

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Walk Two Moons - Sharon Creech - IL: MG, BL: 4.9

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Mind's Eye - Paul Fleischman - IL: MG+, BL: 3.4

A novel in play form in which sixteen-year-old Courtney, paralyzed in an accident, learns about the power of the mind from an elderly blind woman who takes Courtney on an imaginary journey to Italy using a 1910 guidebook.

Small Steps - Louis Sachar - IL: MG, BL: 4.2

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. This is the accompanying novel to Holes.

The Notebook - Nicholas Sparks - MG+

Noah Calhoun, recently returned from World War II in 1946, buys an old plantation home in rural North Carolina, where he contented himself with memories of his first love, a girl he met fourteen years earlier, but then she unexpectedly arrives at his door.

The Last Song - Nicholas Sparks - IL: MG+, BL: 5.1

Seventeen year old Veronica "Ronnie" Miller's life was turned upside-down when her parents divorced and her father moved from New York City to Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. Three years later, she remains angry and alienated from her parents, especially her father...until her mother decides it would be in everyone's best interest if she spent the summer in Wilmington with him.

Dear John - Nicholas Sparks - IL: UL, BL: 5.5

John Tyree, home on leave from the Army, meets Savannah Curtis, an upper class, straight-laced college student working with Habitat for Humanity in North Carolina, and although their values conflict, the attraction remains strong until the 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S. prompt John to re-enlist.

Gathering Blue - Lois Lowry - IL: MG+, BL: 5.0

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

Night - Elie Wiesel - IL: MG+/UG, BL: 4.8

A teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family.

To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee - IL: MG+/UG, BL: 5.6

Scout and Jem Finch discover the honest irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence, and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina and quiet heroism of one man's struggle for justice—but the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

The Call of the Wild - Jack London - IL: MG, BL: 8.0

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment - James Patterson - IL: MG+, BL: 4.6

After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose. Book 1.