

UPCOMING 8TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST 2010

Directions: Please choose **THREE** books from the lists below: **TWO** fiction Books and **ONE** non-fiction book. Do not choose books you have already read, or on which you have already taken an AR test.

RF = Realistic Fiction
HF = Historical Fiction
AD = Adventure
SF = Science Fiction

FICTION:

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE, Stephen Crane HF

1984, George Orwell Futuristic

JANE EYRE, Charlotte Bronte Romantic Fiction

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL, B. Emma Orczy AD

GO BIG OR GO HOME, Will Hobbs SF AD

HEIDI, Johanna Spyri RF

NIGHT OF THE HOWLING DOGS, Graham Salisbury AD Mystery

TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST, Richard Henry Dana AD

TANGERINE, Edward Bloor RF

WAR OF THE WORLDS, H.G. Wells SF

EYES OF THE EMPEROR, Graham Salisbury HF

THE BUCCANEERS, Ian Lawrence AD

SOLDIER BOYS, Dean Hughes HF

THINGS NOT SEEN, Andrew Clements SF

TWISTED SUMMER, Willo Davis Roberts Mystery

SECOND STRINGER, Thomas J. Dygard Sports Novel

THE WAVE, Todd Strasser RF

NAUGHTS & CROSSES, Malorie Blackman Mystery

NON-FICTION – PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

UP FROM SLAVERY, Booker T. Washington

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS: HEROES OF IWO JIMA, James Bradley

*REVENGE OF THE WHALE: THE TRUE STORY OF THE WHALESHIP
ESSEX*, Nathaniel Philbrick

WITHIN REACH: MY EVEREST STORY, Mark Pfitzer & Jack Galvin

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, John R. Tunis

AT THE PLATE WITH MARK McGWIRE, Matt Christopher

DEREK JETER: SUBSTANCE & STYLE (Baseball's New Wave), Mark Stewart

BARACK OBAMA: AN AMERICAN STORY, Bob Carlton & Arielle
Gentiles

THREE CUPS OF TEA: THE YOUNG READER'S EDITION, Greg
Mortenson & David Oliver Relin, adapted by Sarah Thomson

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER, Walter Lord

RED SCARF GIRL: A MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION,
Ji Li Jiang

Students should select the required number of books and complete their reading over the summer holidays. No written reports should be done on the selected books during this time. On their return to school at the beginning of fall semester, students will account for their reading by producing a different type of report on each book. The types of report will be assigned during the first week of school. All the reports will be done in literature class.

UPCOMING 8th GRADE SUMMER READING LIST - BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

This story of the American Civil War is told from an ordinary soldier's point of view.

1984

This is a novel concerning future possibilities of a new world order of total government control. Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth Where his job is to rewrite history books in order for people NOT to learn what the past used to be like.

JANE EYRE

An orphan girl grows up in the manor home of a cruel aunt and afterwards in a harsh boarding school to become the governess of a little girl who is the ward of Mr. Edward Rochester, stern, middle-aged master of Thornfield Manor.

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

The adventure of one man's defiance in the face of authority. The rulers of the Revolution are unable to discern the identity of the Scarlet Pimpernel, a man whose exploits are an embarrassment to the new regime. Is he an exiled French nobleman or an English lord? The only thing for certain is his calling card - the blood-red flower known as the Scarlet Pimpernel.

GO BIG OR GO HOME

Brady Steele watches in awe as a fireball comes crashing through the roof of his house. Fred, as Brady names his space rock, turns out to be one of the rarest meteorites ever found. Professor Rip Ripley from the museum of Hill City wants to study a sliver of it in search of extraterrestrial bacteria. He's hoping to discover the first proof of life beyond Earth, a momentous breakthrough for the new science of astrobiology.

HEIDI

The classic story of a young orphan girl sent to live with her grumpy grandfather in the Swiss Alps. Heidi almost loses her liberty as she is ripped away from the tranquility of the mountains to tend a sick cousin in the city.

NIGHT OF THE HOWLING DOGS

Dylan's scout troop goes camping in Halape, a remote spot below the volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. However, Dylan can't get along with Louie, a tough older boy. One night an earthquake rocks the camp, and then a wave rushes in, sweeping everyone and everything before it. Dylan and Louie must team up on a dangerous rescue mission which becomes an amazing story of survival and the true meaning of leadership.

TWO YEARS BEFORE THE MAST

In 1834 a young Harvard man signed on as a common seaman for a perilous voyage around Cape Horn to California. During the next two years he recorded the joys and hardships of a sailor's life in a daily journal. The result is a protest against brutal working conditions and a powerful portrayal of the testing of man's courage and endurance.

TANGERINE

Paul's older brother is a high school football star but is no hero to Paul, whose own game is soccer. When the Fishers move away to Tangerine, Florida Paul discovers secrets about his brother, his new group of friends and his own dangerous past.

WAR OF THE WORLDS

One of the original "men from outer space" stories, this tale inspired Orson Wells' famous radio broadcast of the same name.

EYES OF THE EMPEROR

Eddy Okubo lies about his age and joins the army in his hometown of Honolulu only weeks before the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. Suddenly Americans see him as the enemy – even the U.S. Army doubts the loyalty of Japanese American soldiers until a small band of them is sent on a secret mission to a small island off the coast of Mississippi.

THE BUCCANEERS - In the early 19th-century 17 year-old John Spencer sails from England in his schooner, the Dragon, to the Caribbean, where he and the crew encounter pirates, fierce storms, fever, and a strange man who some fear may be cursed.

SOLDIER BOYS

Spencer and Dieter are both teenagers, both love their country, and both want to show what they are made of. But World War II is going on, and Dieter and Spencer are NOT on the same side.

THING NOT SEEN

Sometimes, as you make your way through life, you feel invisible. Poor Bobby, one day he wakes up, and he literally IS invisible.

TWISTED SUMMER

Fourteen-year-old Cici hopes for a romantic summer at the beach but instead finds herself trying to solve a murder which had occurred there the previous year.

SECOND STRINGER

When Kevin replaces the quarterback and football hero who suffers a knee injury, the second stringer needs to prove that he can do the job and is not just a substitute.

THE WAVE

This novel gives an insight into the ease with which fascism can come to the fore in any group of human beings, even those who live in a supposedly free and democratic society. It starts off with a teacher named Ben Ross who teaches history in a California high school.

NAUGHTS & CROSSES

Picture a world where instead of white people being the dominant race, they were the ones with a history of slavery. In this world, white people are treated just as our society treats black people.

NON-FICTION:

UP FROM SLAVERY

Washington came from nothing and not only lifted himself up from poverty and ignorance but determined that his life's work would be to assist others in their own efforts at bettering their lives.

FLAGS OF OUR FATHER: HEROES OF IWO JIMA

John Bradley came away from raising the flag on Iwo Jima with a deep and mysterious silence. His son James began to piece together the facts of the five men who raised the flag, three of whom were killed in combat only days later.

REVENGE OF THE WHALE: THE TRUE STORY OF THE WHALESHIP ESSEX

On November 20, 1820, the whaleship "Essex" was rammed and sunk by an angry whale. Within minutes, the twenty-one man crew, including the fourteen-year-old cabin boy Thomas Nickerson, found themselves stranded in three leaky boats in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with barely any supplies and little hope.

WITHIN REACH: MY EVEREST STORY

In May, 1996 the media scrambled to document the gripping story of sixteen-year-old Mark Pfitzer's expedition to Mount Everest. Not only was he the youngest climber ever to attempt the summit, he also witnessed the tragedy in which eight climbers perished in a sudden storm.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Dodger manager Spike Russell's efforts to rally his team to a pennant victory are threatened by a scheming club secretary and the seeming irresponsibility of a star rookie pitcher.

AT THE PLATE WITH MARK MCGWIRE

A fast-moving biography which features the St. Louis Cardinals' first baseman during the 1988 baseball season. Everyone is anxiously watching, waiting to witness him break the home run record.

DEREK JETER: SUBSTANCE AND STYLE

Read this exciting biography to find out how Derek Jeter was teased as a boy growing up in Kalamazoo, Michigan for predicting he would be the great shortstop for the New York Yankees.

BARACK OBAMA: AN AMERICAN STORY

The life of Barack Obama is an inspirational story for anyone who has ever felt abandoned, alone, different, or who has wanted to do great things and make a difference in the world. Teens who read this book will be encouraged, inspired, and challenged to look at the world around them and see how they can take their own improbable journey to change it.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Lord's classic tale, drawn from Titanic survivors' accounts, remains the best Titanic story after all these years. The analysis of the event moves from reports of pretrip hype through the-ambiance of the fated last evening to first reports of trouble, loading life boats, and rescue efforts.

THREE CUPS OF TEA: THE YOUNG READER'S EDITION

This young readers edition of the worldwide bestseller has been specially adapted and updated for young teens. Hiking in the mountains of Pakistan in 1993, Mortenson got lost, then found his way to a small village where the locals helped him recover from his ordeal. While there, he noticed that the students had no building and did all of their schooling out of doors. Motivated to repay the kindness he had received, he vowed to return to the village and help build a school.

RED SCARF GIRL: A MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

In 1966, Ji-li Jiang was twelve years old, an outstanding student and leader in her school, with brains ability, the admiration of her peers, and a shining future in Chairman Mao's New China. All that changed with the advent of the Cultural Revolution, when intelligence became a crime and a wealthy family background invited persecution.