



Eighth Grade Summer Reading List

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (REQUIRED)

By Douglass, Frederick ISBN-13: 978-1-58049-576-9

An autobiographical account by the runaway slave Frederick Douglass that chronicles his experiences with his owners and overseers and discusses how slavery affected both slaves and slaveholders.

Across Five Aprils

By Hunt, Irene ISBN-13: 978-0-425-10241-1

Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Breaking Through

By Jimenez, Francisco ISBN-13: 978-0-618-34248-8

Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education.

The Diary of a Young Girl

By Frank, Anne ISBN-13: 978-0-553-29698-3

A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps. Includes entries previously omitted.

Journey to the Center of the Earth

By Verne, Jules ISBN-13: 978-0-486-44088-0

Jules Verne's classic nineteenth-century science-fiction story about a scientist who leads a group on a treacherous journey to the center of the earth where they discover a lost civilization.

Mrs. Kennedy and Me

By Hill, Clint ISBN-13: 978-1-45164-846-1

A memoir of former Secret Service agent Clint Hill, discussing his time serving as bodyguard to Jacqueline Kennedy from 1960 to 1964.

The Perilous Road

By Steele, William O ISBN-13: 978-0-15-205204-1

Fourteen-year-old Chris, bitterly hating the Yankees for invading his Tennessee mountain home, learns a difficult lesson about the waste of war and the meaning of tolerance and courage when he reports the approach of a Yankee supply troop to the Confederates, only to learn that his brother is probably part of that troop.

Rifles for Watie

By Keith, Harold ISBN-13: 978-0-06-447030-8

Sixteen-year-old Jefferson Davis Bussey cannot wait to join the Army and defend the Union against the dreaded Colonel Watie, but when he is assigned to infiltrate the enemy camp as a spy, he discovers the rebels are boys and men just like him, and he must then decide whether to betray his enemies or join them.

The War of the Worlds

By Wells, H. G ISBN-13: 978-0-451-53065-3

After Martians land on Earth just outside of London in the late nineteenth century, an Englishman tries to find his wife while the British military and human technology fail in their efforts to stop the Martians, which have begun to kill and feed off of humans.



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This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality

By Boyce, Jo Ann Allen ISBN-13: 978-1-68119-852-1

"In 1956, one year before federal troops escorted the Little Rock 9 into Central High School, fourteen-year-old Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee. At first things went smoothly for the Clinton 12, but then outside agitators interfered, pitting the townspeople against one another. Uneasiness turned into anger, and even the Clinton Twelve themselves wondered if the easier thing to do would be to go back to their old school. Jo Ann--clear-eyed, practical, tolerant, and popular among both black and white students---found herself called on as the spokesperson of the group. But what about just being a regular teen? This is the heartbreaking and relatable story of her four months thrust into the national spotlight and as a trailblazer in history. Based on original research and interviews and featuring backmatter with archival materials and notes from the authors on the co-writing process"--Provided by publisher.

The Wednesday Wars

By Schmidt, Gary D ISBN-13: 978-0-618-72483-3

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

And Then There Were None

By Christie, Agatha ISBN-13: 978-0-06-207348-8

Ten strangers--each with a sordid past--are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival.

The Carter Journals

By Phipps, Shane ISBN-13: 978-0-87195-364-3

When fourteen-year-old Cody Carter's grandfather gives him a box of dusty leather journals written by their Carter ancestors, even the history-loving Cody could not have predicted the adventure he was about to take. Journal by journal, Cody is physically transported back in time to experience the lives of Carters on the frontier in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Indiana as the family moved ever westward in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He hunts with Daniel Boone, huddles in a frontier fort under siege, makes friends with Native Americans in the Indiana Territory, operates a lock on the Whitewater Canal, hides slaves on the Underground Railroad, and experiences defeat at the Battle of Corydon. Ultimately, Cody confronts the difficult questions of war, westward expansion, and slavery while living the history of everyday people. Written by a history teacher determined to bring the past to life for his students, The Carter Journals reminds us that history is all around us.

The Hiding Place

By Ten Boom, Corrie ISBN-13: 978-0-553-25669-7

The memoirs of a Dutch woman who was sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp during World War II as a result of her activities in the anti-Nazi underground.

Little Women

By Alcott, Louisa May ISBN-13: 978-0-486-82806-0

Presents Louisa May Alcott's classic novel "Little Women" about the struggles and triumphs of the March family in New England during the Civil War.



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Revolution is not a Dinner Party: A Novel

By Compestine, Ying Chang ISBN-13: 978-0-312-58149-7

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter.

The Secret Garden

By Burnett, Frances Hodgson ISBN-13: 978-0-440-40055-4

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Which Way Freedom?

By Hansen, Joyce ISBN-13: 978-0-380-71408-7

Obi escapes from slavery during the Civil War, joins a black Union regiment and soon becomes involved in the bloody fighting at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Moccasin Trail

By McGraw, Eloise Jarvis ISBN-13: 978-0-14-032170-8

A pioneer boy, brought up by Crow Indians, is reunited with his family and attempts to orient himself in the white man's culture.