

# Eighth Grade Summer Reading List

## REQUIRED READING FOR ALL STUDENTS

### **Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass \*\*\***

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.

## ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ ONE ADDITIONAL BOOK FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST

### **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.

**The Endless Steppe: Growing Up In Siberia**

By Esther Hautzig ISBN 978-0-06-440577-5

The author recounts the five years of hardship and trials spent in Siberia, after she and her family were arrested in Poland by the Russians as political enemies during World War II.

**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.

**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.

**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.

# Biography

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date turned in \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who was the book about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. When did the person live? \_\_\_\_\_

3. List one contemporary of this person: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Name at least one thing going on in the country or world during this person's lifetime: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is this person important? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. List four important facts about this person:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What were your favorite part of the book? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What was your least favorite part of the book? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Illustrate a scene or event from the book. The illustrations should demonstrate an understanding of the book and show thoughtful effort. Label the scene. **Use the space provided on this sheet to provide your illustration.**

# Fiction

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date turned in \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions **in complete sentences**:

1. Setting (Where AND When) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Protagonist(s) and a brief description of their role in the story \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Antagonist(s) and a brief description of their role in the story \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What was the problem in the book? How was the problem resolved? Do you agree with how the problem was resolved? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What lesson does this story hold? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the major theme of the book? Where do you see this theme playing out in the book? Give two specific examples from the book.

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7. What were your favorite and least favorite parts of the book? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Illustrate a scene or event from the book. The illustrations should demonstrate an understanding of the book and show thoughtful effort. Label the scene. **Use the space provided on this sheet to provide your illustration.**