



St. John's School

8th Grade Summer Reading and Core Novels 2017-2018

8th grade students are required to read **one book of his/her choice**, with parental approval. Please note that a lot of Young Adult (YA) titles explore mature topics. Work with your child to pick a book you are both comfortable with him/her reading. The following websites listed may be used to help guide your selection. **See Summer Reading on ELA teacher website for accompanying Summer Reading Assignments (NY Times Assignment) and due dates.**

Recommended websites for finding quality texts for Young Readers:

American Library Association (Association of Library Service to Children) Click on Current Notable Lists and scroll down to “Older Readers” to find book recommendations. You can also click on “Past Notable Lists” for more recommendations. <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists>

Newberry Medal Winners has a variety of award winning reading recommendations:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal>

Scholastic has age appropriate reading selections by genre available at:
http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/books/?Inkid=stacks/nav/b_and_a/main

Scholastic Summer Reading Program offers a program for students in which they can read, log their minutes and win prizes: <http://www.scholastic.com/summer/>

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Suggested Reading offers a variety of genres and books for students to choose from: <http://cty.jhu.edu/talent/after/reading/grades5-6.html>

Barnes & Nobles offers a variety of age appropriate suggestions as well as a program where students may download a B&N Reading Journal and earn **FREE** books:
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading/index.asp>

Good Reads These lists are compiled by a community of readers. Take care to read the recommendations as some books have mature content. <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/middle-school>

Catholic Themed Books: <http://store.pauline.org/landing-pages/summer-reading-2016#gsc.tab=0>

Imagination Soup <http://imaginationsoup.net/2015/05/03/summer-reading-list-for-kids/>

8th Core Novels for the School Year

Theme: The Power of Storytelling

- *Ten Letters—The Stories Americans Tell Their President* by Eli Saslow
- *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman
- *Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

Theme: The American Dream

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* by Cynthia Levinson

Theme: The Human Condition: Adversity, Conflict, and Change

- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- Choose one of the following: *Number the Stars*, *Book Thief*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, *Friedrich*, *Between Shades of Grey*, *Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Berlin Boxing Club*