

8th-Grade Summer Reading List

Students choose to read any *three books* from this list.
On his honor, a student should choose books he has not yet read.

Nothing But the Truth. Written by Avi. *Fiction*.

Can a student *really* be suspended for humming the National Anthem? Can a teacher *really* be forced to resign for instructing him not to? A “documentary novel,” this story is told from a variety of different perspectives, such as memos, telegrams, newspaper articles, and diary entries, all begging the question: Where and what is the *truth*?

Dandelion Wine. Written by Ray Bradbury. *Fiction*.

Remember when you were twelve and the summer seemed to stretch out forever before you? That’s how it seems to Douglass Spaulding, too.

Ender’s Game. Written by Orson Scott Card. *Science Fiction*. First in a series.

“Selected” for attendance at Battle School, Ender Wiggin must leave home and journey to space to play “war games.” According to the recruiting officer, “All the boys are organized into armies . . . Nobody gets hurt, but winning and losing matter . . . [and Ender’s] whole future and the future of the human race depends on how well [he] learns, how well [he] fights.”

Lionboy. Written by Zizou Corder. *Fantasy*. First in a series.

Charlie Ashanti journeys from London to Paris in search of his parents, who have been kidnapped. The discovery of a secret will suggest that it’s not only his parents who need rescue; it’s the whole world. Charlie, by the way, speaks Cat.

The House of the Scorpion. Written by Nancy Farmer. *Science Fiction*.

Matt Alacran grows up learning what it means to have been born a clone. And not just any clone. Matt is the clone of El Patron, lord of a country called Opium. Is escape from his fate possible?

The Lightning Thief. Written by Rick Riordan. *Fantasy*. First in a series.

Meet Percy Jackson, an unlikely hero, yet a hero, he discovers, nevertheless. His tasks are great – returning Zeus’s stolen thunderbolt among them – and his journey is long, taking him from the heights of Mount Olympus (above New York City) to the depths of the Underworld (beneath Los Angeles). But Percy’s got courage, heart, and some new friends to help him on his quest.

Winterdance. Written by Gary Paulsen. *Non-fiction*.

This is the exciting and powerful account of Paulsen's training for and then racing the Iditarod, an 1180-mile sled-dog race across Alaska.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Written by Mark Twain. *Fiction*.

Just how much trouble can one boy stir up? Find out and enjoy Mark Twain's classic, humorous story of a boyhood spent on the banks of the Mississippi River.