Rising 8th-Grade Summer Reading

There is no such thing as a child who hates to read;
there are only children who have not found the right book.
– Frank Serafini

All students should prioritize reading for at least 20 minutes every day. Over the summer, you are required to read at least three books. One of them must be the history book assigned for Mr. Mundell's class. You must also read at least two more books. These two books may come from the Battle of the Books list, the Miscellaneous list, or both. You may not choose books you have already read independently or studied in any class.

This book is required reading for Mr. Mundell's History class.
-*All But My Life: A Memoir* by Gerda Weissmann Klein

Battle of the Books List
If you'd like to get a head start on next year's Battle of the Books competition, please read at least two books from this list over the summer and continue reading from this list during the school year.
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan
The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Elephant Run by Roland Smith
Enchanted Air by Margarita Engle
Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
House Arrest by K.A. Holt
The Last Cuentista by Donna Higuera
Lost in the River of Grass by Ginny Rorby
Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life by James Patterson
Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Gray
New Kid by Jerry Craft
On the Far Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart
The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen
Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian McKay Heidicker
A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie S. Tolan

2026-27 Battle of the Books Goals
-Each student will read at least six Battle of the Books titles by April.
-Collectively, each class section will read every book on the Battle of the Books list by April.

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Miscellaneous List
If you prefer, you may choose to read two books from this list, which includes classic and contemporary middle school titles.

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Behind Rebel Lines by Seymour Reit
Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
The Education of Little Tree by Forrest Carter
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
No Promises in the Wind by Irene Hunt
Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
The Pearl by John Steinbeck
The Pigman by Paul Zindel
Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan
The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez
The River by Gary Paulsen
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
Undefeated by Steve Sheinkin
Watership Down by Richard Adams