

Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading List

Students are asked to read **three** books of their choosing from the reading list and be prepared to take an AR reading test the first or second week of school. Students should also have read **one** book of their own choosing which is not included on the list. **A book report/review of the book of their choice will be expected during the first week of school.**

The report/review must be in MLA format (12pt. Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, MLA heading) and at least two pages in length. It must include a summary of the plot, descriptions of the main characters and your personal response to the book – what you thought about it and connections to other literature, film and life experiences.

Cormier, Robert: I am the Cheese

AR 5.6

A young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.

Cooper, Susan: The Grey King

AR 6.2

The third book in the Dark is Rising series, Will Stanton, visiting in Wales, is swept into a desperate quest to find the golden harp and to awaken the ancient Sleepers.

Golding, William: Lord of the Flies

AR 5.2

William Golding's classic novel "Lord of the Flies," about a group of British schoolboys marooned on a tropical island who begin to create their own society and rules.

Hughes, Langston: The Dream Keeper and other Poems

AR 5.5

A collection of sixty-six poems, selected by the author for young readers, including lyrical poems, songs, and blues, many exploring the black experience.

Orczy, Baroness Emmuska: The Scarlett Pimpernel

AR 8.0

Sir Percy Blakeney defies the French revolutionaries in order to save innocent men and women from being put to death in the guillotine.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher: Shabanu

AR 5.9

Eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, and must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes

Stevenson, Robert Louis: Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde

AR 9.5

A respected London doctor invents a formula which turns him into an evil and ugly person who stalks the streets at night killing people, and by the time his friends discover his secret, it is too late.

Voigt, Cynthia: Dacey's Song

AR 5.2

Sequel to: Homecoming. Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dacey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage.

Thomson, Sarah L.: Three Cups of Tea

AR 6.1

In 1993, while climbing one of the world's most difficult peaks, Mortenson became lost and ill, and eventually found aid in the tiny Pakistani village of Korphe. He vowed to repay his generous hosts by building a school; his efforts have grown into the Central Asia Institute, which has since provided education for 25,000 children. Retold for middle readers, the story remains inspirational and compelling. Solid pacing and the authors' skill at giving very personal identities to people of a different country, religion and culture help Mortenson deliver his message without sounding

preachy; he encourages readers to put aside prejudice and politics, and to remember that the majority of people are good. An interview with Mortenson's 12-year-old daughter, who has traveled with her father to Pakistan, offers another accessible window onto this far-away and underlines Mortenson's sacrifice and courage.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan: Hound of the Baskervilles

AR 8.3

When Sir Charles Baskerville is found mysteriously dead in the grounds of Baskerville Hall, everyone remembers the legend of the monstrous creature that haunts the moor, but Sherlock Holmes knows there must be a more rational explanation.

Berry, Julia: Amaranth Enchantment

A.R 4.7, Point Value 9

Orphaned at age five, Lucinda, now fifteen, stands with courage against the man who took everything from her, aided by a thief, a clever goat, and a mysterious woman called the Witch of Amaranth, while the prince she knew as a child prepares to marry, unaware that he, too, is in danger.

Andrews, Andy: The Lost Choice (Advanced Reading, AR test not available, Book Report only)

*Bestselling author Andrews (*The Traveler's Gift*) takes a cue from the success of his previous book, built around time travel, motivational ideas and historical figures, and continues in the same vein. When Mark and Dorry Chandler find an odd bronze object in a ditch in their Denver backyard, they begin to investigate its origin. Andrews develops the theme of the importance of making good choices, using the motif of four inscribed ancient bronze objects that together form a cup. Each fragment symbolizes choices that its historic owner made, influenced by the object. Using flashbacks, Andrews offers numerous short vignettes of the different historical figures that possessed each of the fragments, including Oskar Schindler, Alfred Vanderbilt, John Adams and George Washington Carver among others. The flashbacks are simply presented, and they often have the feel of fictional mini biographies for young readers rather than meaty adult fare. There's nothing particularly compelling about the storytelling-the mechanics of fiction are creaky in places-but that's not the point. Rather, the book stands on the positive message that one person by his or her decisions can change the world. As he did in *The Traveler's Gift*, Andrews should appeal to those readers looking for an uncomplicated motivational read with a dollop of history thrown in for good measure. (June) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.*

Ford, Jamie: Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet (Advanced Reading, AR test may not be available, Book Report only)

Henry Lee, a Chinese-American in Seattle, loses his wife to cancer and recalls his youth, when he and his Japanese-American friend, Keiko, spent time together during WWII--before Keiko and her family were interred at a camp. The story deals with many issues, school bullying, father-son relationships, friendship and the power it has, and a little bit of first romance-its innocence and heartbreak