



Grade 8 – Summer Work

Students entering eighth grade are required to read at least FOUR books and are encouraged to work on math skills over the summer.

Students are expected to come to school in September ready to actively engage in discussions about these texts. Unless noted, families must either purchase or borrow their own copies of books. Digital format (Kindle) is acceptable, as is audiobook accompaniment for readers who benefit from it. Many digital books are accessible through Park's Digital Library and *Hoopla* (Boston Public Library's digital resource, which all Massachusetts residents can access for free).

To strengthen the home-and-school connection, you are invited (but by no means required) to read these selections alongside your child. Most of all, please join us in promoting reading as a wonderful way to relax, and enjoy the summer.

Please note: The Grade 8 curriculum in English and social studies explores themes of social issues and human rights, and these book selections will help to deepen students' readiness for the year. Because of these themes, some of these books include language or scenes that are considered racially or culturally charged (including violence, slurs, and swear words). All these books are appropriate for this age group, and teachers will structure class discussions about these topics in September.

English

Students should read a total of THREE books for English.

1. At least ONE choice from the Grade 8 Summer Poetry List. Students should make mental note of poems which appeal to them in style or content. **Select from the following list:**

Maya Angelou: [L Shall Not Be Moved](#)

Billy Collins:

[Sailing Around the Room, New and Selected Poems](#)

Emily Dickinson: [Poems by Emily Dickinson, Series One](#)

Langston Hughes: [The Dream Keeper and Other Poems](#)

Tupac Shakur [The Rose That Grew From the Concrete](#)

Naomi Shihab Nye:

[19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East](#)

2. At least ONE choice from the Grade 8 English Summer Novel List: Students should make mental note of style, themes, and character development. **Select from the following list:**

[The Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo:

[The Old Man and the Sea](#) by Ernest Hemingway

[The Epic Crush of Genie Lo](#) by F.C. Lee

[The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed Their Lives](#) by Dashka Slater

[Watch Us Rise](#) by Renee Watson

[The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak

3. At least ONE choice from the Grade 8 English Graphic Novel List. Students should make mental note of the artistic style used in depicting these epic stories. **Select from the following:**

[Beowulf](#) by Gareth Hinds

[March \(book 1\)](#) by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

[They Called Us Enemy](#) by George Takai

[On a Sunbeam](#) by Tillie Walden

If you have any questions about reading or obtaining these English texts, contact [Susan Bogue Myslik](#).

Social Studies

4. *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High School*, by Melba Pattillo Beals. (Provided to all students by the social studies department)

We ask readers to think about these questions as they read:

- Who is an upstander? A bystander? A perpetrator? What are examples of these roles in the story?
- How does social change happen in this story? What are some of the important factors that lead to change?

Questions? Please contact [Chris Beeson](#)

Math

Just as students benefit from reading throughout the summer, regular practice with problem solving, computation, and math facts will maintain and strengthen the mathematical gains made during the school year. We recommend students practice the following skills to a level of proficiency to start Grade VIII math. For students who would benefit from targeted skill practice, we recommend that families purchase the [Spectrum Math Workbook](#). For students seeking more mixed skill review, we recommend [Summer Math Skill Sharpener](#) workbook. Please purchase the grade level your child just completed.

Math Stretch and Challenge

For additional stretch and challenge, we recommend [Problems of the Week](#) on the MathCounts website, [previous AMC8 contest competitions](#) and [previous Purple Comet competitions](#)

Questions? Please contact [Christy Keblusek](#)