

8th Grade: Summer Reading 2021

Best Practices:

1. Reading is a great way to relax and explore new things over the summer.
2. Read or listen to print books, eBooks, and audiobook for at least **20 minutes** per day.
3. Read beyond the requirements this summer to discover more books to enjoy.

Sora:

- Use the [Sora website](#) or download the app to access Maret's digital book collection
- Link your Maret Sora account to DC Public Library to access more books
- Visit the [library website](#) to learn more

Format:

*Starred titles are available for checkout online from Maret's Sora collection

+The plus sign indicates that the book is the first in a series or has a sequel

Section 1: Required Learning Experiences

Humanities Department (History) Required Viewing: Watch the following series	
Title, Creator, Format	Overview
First Civilizations Episode 1: War Episode 2: Religion Episode 3: Cities Episode 4: Trade	Explore the seedbed civilizations of Mesoamerica, the Middle East and the Indus Valley to learn how and why early humans, who had been mobile foragers, created villages, towns, cities and states, establishing the blueprint for the modern world. (available on Amazon and PBS)
Family Engagement	Guiding Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Watch the series as a family• Use the guiding questions for discussions	War: Is war an inevitable part of "civilization"? Religion: What is the role of religion in civilizations past and present? Cities: Why were cities so important to the rise of civilization? Trade: How has trade helped and harmed civilization?
Humanities Department (English) Required Reading:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read <i>Miles Morales: Ultimate Spider-Man Ultimate Collection, Book 1</i> by Brian Michael Bendis*2. Read one of the comics from the list below3. Read one title from the recommended reading list	
Title, Creator, Format	Overview
Black Panther: A Nation Under Our Feet, Vol. 1 by Ta-Nehisi Coates+*	When a superhuman terrorist group calling itself, The People sparks a violent uprising, the land famed for its incredible technology and proud warrior traditions will be thrown into turmoil. As suicide bombers terrorize the population, T'Challa struggles to unite his citizens, and a familiar villain steps out of the shadows. If Wakanda is to survive, it must adapt — but can its monarch, one in a long line of Black Panthers, survive the necessary change?

Batgirl, vol. 1 by Hope Larson+*	Barbara Gordon's heart belongs to Burnside, the ultra-hip Gotham City neighborhood. But some threats are bigger than Burnside. And when those threats come calling, Batgirl will answer! When Babs plans a trip to train with the greatest fighters in the Far East, she has no idea her vigilante life will follow her.
Wonder Woman Rebirth, vol. 1 by Greg Rucka+*	She is one of the greatest heroes the world has ever known—an icon of equality, a symbol of power, a tireless champion of peace and justice. But who is Wonder Woman really? She's about to find out. Themyscira, the island paradise she left behind to defend Earth from the war god Ares, has vanished, and the magical power of her Lasso of Truth has disappeared along with it.
New Super-Man by Gene Leung Yang+*	An impulsive act of heroism thrusts an arrogant young man into the limelight of Shanghai as China begins to form its own Justice League of powerful heroes. As the government creates their own Superman, will they live to regret the person they've chosen?

Section 2: Recommended Learning Experiences

Recommended Reading: Realistic Fiction	
Title, Creators, Format	Overview
Love, Hate, and Other Filters by Samira Ahmed*	Maya is caught between her parent's world of college and marrying a nice Indian, Muslim boy and her dream of film school and dating a classmate when a terrorist attack changes everything.
Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel by Sara Farizan*	Leila's Persian heritage already makes her different from her classmates. If word got out that she likes girls, life would be twice as hard, but when a new girl shows up, she starts taking risks.
I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson*	Artistically gifted twins Jude and Noah used to be inseparable but now barely speak. Their story unfolds from two perspectives—Jude's from the present day and Noah's from before the split.
Mexican WhiteBoy by Matt de la Peña*	Danny explores his half-Mexican and half-white identity while spending a summer with his cousin and new friends on the baseball fields and back alleys of San Diego County, California.
I Am Princess X by Cherie Priest*	May and Libby dreamed up Princess X before Libby's death, but suddenly the character is everywhere and featured in a webcomic, leading May to believe Libby could be alive.
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely*	When African-American Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, white classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who is also a family friend.
After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay*	Told from alternating perspectives, Bunny gets recruited to play basketball at an elite private school, leaving behind his best friend Nasir who has to navigate issues with his cousin Wallace.

Recommended Reading: Fantasy & Science Fiction

Title, Creators, Format	Overview
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi*	Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, while being ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince.
Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo+*	In this heart-pounding fantasy novel, six outcasts attempt an impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction—if they don't kill each other first.
The Black Witch by Laurie Forest*	Elloren, granddaughter of the last Black Witch, goes to university where she encounters people of all fantastical races for the first time at a point when evil seems to be looming on the horizon.
Life of Pi by Yann Martel*	When Pi Patel is shipwrecked, he travels for 227 days on a lifeboat with only a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness*	Conor O'Malley is struggling at home and school when a monster visits him and agrees to tell him three stories that will help him in his path forward—in exchange for a story from Conor.
Dry by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman*	In this action-packed science fiction book, which feels too close to a possible reality, a lengthy drought in California escalates to catastrophic proportions, turning the state into a warzone.
Scythe by Neal Shusterman+*	In the future, the only way to die is to be randomly killed, or “gleaned,” by professional reapers called “scythes.” Two teens compete to become a scythe—a position neither wants.

Recommended Reading: Historical Fiction

Title, Creators, Format	Overview
The Miseducation of Cameron Post by Emily M. Danforth*	In the 1990s, gay teenager Cameron rebels against her conservative Montana ranch town, and her family sends her to a gay conversion therapy center to change her ways.
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr*	The story of Marie-Laure, a blind girl living in the French countryside, and Werner, a German orphan whose knack for radio technology leads him into the German Nazi military.
Under a Painted Sky by Stacey Lee*	In 1845, Sammy, a Chinese-American girl wanted for murder, and Annamae, a runaway slave, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri.
Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers+*	Perry is on the frontlines of the Vietnam War after his college plans fall through, questioning why black troops are getting the most dangerous assignments and why U.S. troops are there at all.
Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell*	Park is half Korean and generally an outcast getting through high school in 1986 by reading comics and listening to the Smiths until the day Eleanor steps onto his bus.

Recommended Reading: Nonfiction

Title, Creators, Format	Overview
The Nazi Hunters by Neal Bascomb*	Adolf Eichmann, head of the Nazis' Final Solution, vanished after World War II. This is the story of how an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina 16 years later.
The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater*	These two teenagers' lives couldn't have been more different, but each day their lives overlapped for 8 minutes on the 57 bus—until their story became a national news story.
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai*	Malala was shot for speaking out about girls' right to education after the Taliban took control of her area in Pakistan. Now she is a global symbol for peaceful protest and shares her story here.
Stamped--Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi*	The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. Jason Reynolds presents a young readers version of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning (2016) reveals the history of racist ideas in America and inspires hope for an antiracist future.

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