

Friends Academy Middle School  
2021 Summer Reading List  
for students entering  
**8th Grade**

**Challenge One**

Students entering eighth grade are required to read the following:

**Author:** Anderson, Laurie Halse.

**Title:** *Chains*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1416905868

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

**Challenge Two**

In addition to Challenge One, students entering eighth grade are also required to read one book from the following list:

**Author:** Adeyemi, Tomi.

**Title:** *The Children of Blood and Bone*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1250294623

**Genre:** Fantasy

Zelie Adebola remembers well the night magic disappeared, her mother was killed, and her people enslaved by the ruthless king. Eleven years later, it looks as if there's a new chance to rekindle magic. Three powerful artifacts seem to hold the key, but they must be used together before a deadline that will banish magic forever. Aided by her loyal brother Tzain, Zelie sets off on a quest to retrieve the artifacts, taking with her one member of the royal family while being pursued by another. By the time all the pieces of her plan are in place, Zelie will discover that magic is more dangerous and unpredictable than she ever imagined.

**Author:** Carbone, Elisa.

**Title:** *The Pack.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0670036196

**Genre:** Suspense

Becky is convinced that Akhil Vyas is the weirdest person on earth when he shows up in her English class. He refuses to sit in chairs, stares at her with spooky eyes, and has scar-covered skin. But soon Becky's revulsion turns to fascination. The National Institutes of Health is studying Akhil, but he won't say why—until something happens that makes him swear Becky and her friend Omar to secrecy. Suddenly Becky isn't sure what's more shocking—Akhil's secret, or the chilling reason why he must reveal it. Elisa Carbone weaves a tale of intrigue that will enthrall any reader.

**Author:** Cooper, Candy J. and Aronson, Marc.

**Title:** *Poisoned Water.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-1547602322

**Genre:** Nonfiction

In 2014, Flint, Michigan, was a cash-strapped city that had been built up, then abandoned by General Motors. As part of a plan to save money, government officials decided that Flint would temporarily switch its water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River. Within months, many residents broke out in rashes. Then it got worse: children stopped growing. Some people were hospitalized with mysterious illnesses; others died. Citizens of Flint protested that the water was dangerous. Despite what seemed so apparent from the murky, foul-smelling liquid pouring from the city's faucets, officials refused to listen. Through interviews with residents and intensive research into legal records and news accounts, journalist Candy J. Cooper, assisted by writer-editor Marc Aronson, reveals the true story of how the people of Flint fought—and are still fighting—for clean water and healthy lives.

**Author:** Curtis, Christopher Paul.

**Title:** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham.*

**ASIN:** B00CNQ7HBE

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Byron gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they'll be in Birmingham during one of the darkest moments in America's history.

**Author:** Crutcher, Chris.

**Title:** *Ironman.*

**ASIN:** B01FIXJ5LI

**Genre:** Sports

Bo has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. The rage he feels gives him the energy as a triathlete to press his body to the limit, but it also translates into angry outbursts toward his teachers.

Now dangerously close to expulsion from school, Bo has been assigned to Anger Management sessions with the school "truants." With an eclectic mix of hard-edged students, Bo may finally have to deal with his long-brewing hatred for his father -- before it eats away at him completely.

**Author:** Feinstein, John

**Series Genre:** Sports Mysteries

In John Feinstein's series, sports and mystery are intertwined. Follow reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson as they go behind the scenes and cover stories about baseball, football, basketball, tennis, and swimming.

*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0553494600

*Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0440421252

*Cover Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0440422051

*Change Up: Mystery at the World Series*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0375847592

*The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0375858161

*Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0375871689

**Author:** Hinton, S.E.

**Title:** *The Outsiders.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0670532575

**Genre:** Classic

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But he can't count on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

**Author:** Johnson, Angela.

**Title:** *First Part Last.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-1442403437

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

Coretta Scott King Award Winner

Bobby is a 16-year-old father struggling to raise a child. In flashbacks, we see how Bobby gets to where he is today and how he deals with the stress and joy of being a father.

**Author:** Marchetta, Melina.

**Title:** *Jellicoe Road.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0061431852

**Genre:** Mystery

Winner of the 2009 Printz Award.

Abandoned by her mother on Jellicoe Road when she was eleven, Taylor Markham, now seventeen, is finally being confronted with her past. But as the reluctant leader of her boarding school dorm, there isn't a lot of time for introspection. And while Hannah, the closest adult Taylor has to family, has disappeared, Jonah Griggs, the boy who might be the key to unlocking the secrets for Taylor's past, is back in town, moody stares and all.

**Author:** Oppel, Kenneth.

**Title:** *Airborn.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0060531829

**Genre:** Fantasy

2005 Printz Honor Book.

In an alternate world, Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard a huge airship. Reminiscent of the adventure stories of Verne and Stevenson, Matt must investigate an old man's claims of seeing mysterious flying creatures.

**Author:** Paulsen, Gary.

**Title:** *The Transall Saga.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0375873232

**Genre:** Science Fiction

Thirteen-year-old Mark crosses into another world on a camping trip. He must learn how to survive in this new alien world.

**Author:** Reynolds, Jason.

**Title:** *Long Way Down.*

**ISBN-13:** 978-1481438261

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction, Verse

Will has known about The Rules for a long time. No one he knows invented them, they've just always existed: No Crying, No Snitching, Get Revenge. When his big brother Shawn is killed, Will knows what he has to do -- he has to follow The Rules, right? The 60-second trip down the elevator from his apartment to the killer is among the longest of his life. When his past offers a different perspective on The Rules, Will has to make a tough decision: Will he go through with it?

**Author:** Riggs, Ransom.

**Series Genre:** Fantasy

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs.

It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that makes for a thrilling listening experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets 16-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow - impossible though it seems - they may still be alive.

Book 1: *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*

**ISBN-13:** 978-1594746031

Book 2: *Hollow City*

**ISBN-13:** 978-1594746123

Book 3: *Library of Souls*

**ISBN-13:** 978-1594749315

Book 4: *A Map of Days*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0735231498

Book 5: *The Conference of Birds*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0735231504

Book 6: *The Desolations of Devil's Acre*

**ISBN-13:** 978-0735231535

**Author:** Schusterman, Neal.

**Title:** *Scythe*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1543617948

**Genre:** Science Fiction

A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: Humanity has conquered all those things and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life - and they are commanded to do so in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe - a role that neither wants. These teens must master the "art" of taking life, and learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.

**Author:** Sonnenblick, Jordan.

**Title:** *Notes from the Midnight Driver*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0439757812

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

Alex Gregory has made some bad decisions. After a drunk driving incident, he is sentenced to spend time in a retirement home with an old man with a mystery.

**Author:** White, Robb.

**Title:** *Deathwatch*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0440917403

**Genre:** Mystery

An exciting novel of suspense, based on a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon who believes that anything can be had for a price.

**Author:** Yang, Gene Luen.

**Title:** *American Born Chinese*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0312384487

**Genre:** Graphic Novel

Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with an FOB like him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl. Danny is an all-American boy: great at basketball, popular with the girls. But his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school, leaving him with no choice but to transfer somewhere he can start all over again. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines. He's ready to join the ranks of the immortal gods in heaven. But there's no place in heaven for a monkey. Each of these characters cannot help himself alone, but how can they possibly help each other? They're going to have to find a way—if they want to fix the disasters their lives have become.

**Author:** Yolen, Jane.

**Title:** *The Devil's Arithmetic*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0142401095

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

1989 National Jewish Book Award Winner.  
Hannah is transported back to 1942 Poland during her modern-day Passover Seder. As she tries to figure out what has happened, Nazi soldiers begin to take everyone away. Hannah is

the only one that knows what horrors are in store.

**Author:** Zusak, Markus.

**Title:** *The Book Thief*.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0375842207

**Genre:** Historical Fiction

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.