



# Grade 8 – Summer Work

Students entering eighth grade are required to read at least **THREE** 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: [Sora](#) and [Hoopla](#) via the Boston Public Library, available to all Massachusetts residents. Also, check out the [Summer Reading Ideas](#) page from the Librarians.

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.

## English

Students entering eighth grade should read a minimum of **THREE** books over the summer and listen to **ONE** podcast.

**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: [I 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 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 Sun is Also a Star](#) by Nicola Yoon

[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

**4. At least ONE podcast. Listen on any platform.** Select from following list:

[Grammar Girl](#) - any 8 episodes

[Harry Potter and the Sacred Text](#) - at least 3 chapters from any season (you must have read or be reading *Harry Potter!*)

[Have You Heard of George's Podcast](#) - any 4 contiguous episodes

[Song Exploder](#) - any 4 episodes

[The Slowdown](#) - any 8 episodes

[Two Princes](#) - any season

**Note:** The Grade 8 curriculum explores themes of social issues and human rights. These selections are all appropriate for eighth graders, yet, because of the topics addressed, some of the books and podcasts include language or scenes that are racially or culturally charged.

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

## 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. 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 (Grade 7). Online resources, such as [IXL](#) and [Khan Academy](#) also offer great practice.

### 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](#)