

EIGHTH GRADE READING LIST - SUMMER 2022

REQUIRED BOOK FOR ALL 8TH GRADE STUDENTS:

Hesse, Monica. **THE GIRL IN THE BLUE COAT.** Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion.

OPTIONAL BOOK: SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOOKS:

Dahl, Roald. **GOING SOLO.** In this sequel to his earlier autobiography, *Boy*, the author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* details his adventures in Africa and as an RAF pilot during World War II.

Ford, Jamie. **HOTEL ON THE CORNER OF BITTER AND SWEET.** This acclaimed historical novel is a thoughtful story of two kids who meet in Seattle during World War II and have to deal with cultural prejudice and the expectations of their parents.

Funke, Cornelia. **THE THIEF LORD.** Two brothers run away from their home after the death of their mother when they learn of their aunt's plan to separate them. The brothers join a small group of orphans living in an abandoned movie theatre in Venice. The orphans' theatre home and all the bare necessities of their lives are provided for them by a mysterious character who calls himself the Thief Lord.

Gleason, Colleen. **THE CLOCKWORK SCARAB.** Set in 19th century London, this murder mystery combines elements of fantasy, time travel, and Egyptology. It can be solved only if the two teenage protagonists, detective Mina Holmes (the fictitious niece of Sherlock Holmes) and vampire hunter Evaline Stoker (the sister of Bram) join forces on a journey that takes them from the British Museum to the highest and lowest levels of London society.

Lupica, Mike. **QB1.** Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights (Texas). He is also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season--not to mention the son of former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be royalty . . . and a quarterback. All of which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow, a tall order for any boy, especially one who's merely a freshman.

McDougall, Christopher. **BORN TO RUN: a Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen.** Isolated by Mexico's deadly Copper Canyons, the blissful Tarahumara Indians have honed the ability to run hundreds of miles without rest or injury. In a riveting narrative, award-winning journalist and often-injured runner Christopher McDougall sets out to discover their secrets.

Mowat, Farley. **NEVER CRY WOLF.** The Canadian Wildlife Service assigned the naturalist Farley Mowat to investigate why wolves were killing arctic caribou. This is Mowat's account of the summer he lived in the frozen tundra alone studying the wolf population and developing an affection for the wolves and for an Inuit tribe known as the Ithmiut.

Patneude, David. **THIN WOOD WALLS.** A Japanese-American boy faces the confusion and frustration of internment during WWII after Pearl Harbor is bombed.

Portis, Charles. **TRUE GRIT.** When a coward named Tom Chaney shoots her father down and robs him of his life, his horse, and \$150, fourteen year-old Mattie Ross leaves home to avenge her father's blood. With one-eyed Rooster Cogburn, the meanest available U.S. Marshal, Mattie pursues the homicide into Indian Territory.

Potok, Chaim. **THE CHOSEN.** In 1940s Brooklyn, New York, an accident throws Reuven Malther and Danny Saunders together. Despite their differences (Reuven is a Modern Orthodox Jew with an intellectual, Zionist father; Danny is the brilliant son and rightful heir to a Hasidic rabbi), the young men form a deep, if unlikely, friendship.

Strassner, Todd. **THE WAVE.** History teacher Burt Ross's system "The Wave," with its rules of "strength through discipline, community and action," sweeps from the classroom through the entire school. Based on a true incident from a 1969 California school, it is a powerful depiction of fascism and group pressure.

Vanderpool, Clare. **NAVIGATING EARLY.** Kansas-born Jack Baker is having a hard time fitting in at the Maine boarding school to which he has been sent following the death of his mother. Then he meets Early Auden, the "strangest of boys." When the two are accidentally left alone on campus during a holiday, they set off on a quest for the mysterious "Pi." Add in several pirates, a great black bear, and a surprise ending for a poignant and thought-provoking adventure.

Varty, Boyd. **CATHEDRAL OF THE WILD.** The author grew up on Londolozi Game Reserve in South Africa. He shares his young life in this memoir - tracking animals, raising wildcats, and surviving disease and animal attacks.

Yousafzai, Malala. **I AM MALALA: THE GIRL WHO STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND WAS SHOT BY THE TALIBAN.** Malala was shot in 2012 in Pakistan for fighting for girls' education. She recovered and shared her story in this autobiography.

EVALUATION FOR SUMMER READING: You will need to be prepared for in-class writing and discussion about both of your summer reading books. For *The Girl In the Blue Coat*, you will have a writing assignment during the first week of class. After we discuss the novel, you will have another assessment which will be a response to topics of the teacher's choice. There will also be an assessment on your choice book.