

2022-23 Summer Reading

Rising GRADE 8 Students

1. Read three books of your choice this summer

Students should start the summer by making a “to-read-before-high-school” list of free-choice novels. Then, read at least three of those titles before the start of eighth grade; one in June, one in July, and one in August. Need some help getting started? Here are some helpful tips for students:

- Go to a library or bookstore and browse the featured titles set out by the librarians or sales clerks until something intrigues you.
- Try using [literature-map.com](https://www.literature-map.com) and plugging in a favorite author or two or three you have enjoyed in the past and try a book by someone recommended through those maps whose work you have never tried.
- Try a classic that one of your parents remembers reading as a teenager.
- Flash back to your younger years and read several books meant for little kids, maybe ones you remember loving when you were little and see if the appeal is still there.
- Pick a book as a family and all read it at the same time.
- Go to [YALSA Book Finder](https://www.yalsa.org/bookfinder/) and browse several of their lists for ideas of titles to try. They have lists for all kinds of young adult readers, even for kids who don't like to read.
- Try [EpicReads.com](https://www.epicreads.com). Epic Reads is a great new site with up-to-date reviews and lists of great material for all kinds of teen readers.

Whatever you do, just get started! One book has a way of leading to others. Summer is a great time to open your mind to new reading experiences. You don't need to write anything about the free choice reading books you enjoy this summer. Just read!

2. Read “The Boys in the Boat” (Young Readers Adaptation)

Before we resume school in late August, read “The Boys in the Boat” by [Daniel James Brown](#). This is the true story of the 1936 Olympic crew team representing the USA. It is nonfiction but written in the style of a novel. There is a young readers adaptation of this book, which is the version I suggest you read. We will compare and contrast the young readers edition with passages from the adult readers edition as one of our early units in English class.