

Entering 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

With this Summer Reading, as well as with their reading and work throughout the upcoming school year, students entering 8th Grade are to consider this essential question:

EQ: “When should an individual take a stand to confront a problem?”

1. All students will read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton.

We will be working with the novel for our first unit in the fall. You must have a copy of this book in school. As you read:

- note new vocabulary

-mark interesting quotes and events while you read

-also consider the following questions:

1. Do you think this book deserves to be considered a classic? Why or why not?
2. Although this is an older book, does it connect to your life experience and/or events in the world today?
3. Do you think the characters in this book are realistic and relatable? Why or why not?
4. What is a big decision that a main character had to make? What influenced their decision? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?

2. Each student will choose ONE additional book to read from the following list:

***I am Malala* by Christiana Lamb and Malala Yousafzai** A memoir by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Malala Yousafzai writes, "I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday." When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer** A true story of an enterprising African teenager who constructed a windmill from scraps to create electricity for his entire community. William Kamkwamba shares the remarkable story of his youth in Malawi, Africa—a nation crippled by intense poverty, famine, and the AIDS plague—and how, with tenacity and imagination, he built a better life for himself, his family, and his village.

***In Their Shoes* by Deborah Reber** An engaging and inspiring collection of true stories of women engaged in myriad careers, from astrophysicists and fashion designers to animators and zoologists, these profiles provide sage advice for young women as they consider leadership and future career paths.

***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury** Firemen once put out fires; now they start them. Books have become illegal to own or read and it is the job of firemen to burn any books they find. Guy Montag, a fireman, is devoted to the belief that books are dangerous and he is committed to

doing his part to protect society from the radical ideas books can ignite. A chance encounter with a young woman, however, causes Montag to reconsider everything he thought he knew and everything he thought he believed. Before long, Montag is hiding the books he used to burn and soon thereafter, he must run for his life from those he used to call his brothers.

***March: Book 1* by John Lewis** March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall. This graphic novel is the first of a trilogy chronicling the life of John Lewis.

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

by Christina Soontornvat On June 23, 2018, twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach enter a cave in northern Thailand seeking an afternoon's adventure. But when they turn to leave, rising floodwaters block their path out. The boys are trapped! Before long, news of the missing team spreads, launching a seventeen-day rescue operation involving thousands of rescuers from around the globe. As the world waits, people begin to wonder: how long can a group of ordinary kids survive in complete darkness, with no food or clean water? Luckily, the Wild Boars are an extraordinary group. Meticulously researched and generously illustrated with photographs, this page-turner includes an author's note describing her experience meeting the team, detailed source notes, and a bibliography.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot** Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her enslaved ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they'd weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

Now Rebecca Skloot takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the “colored” ward of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s to stark white laboratories with freezers full of HeLa cells; from Henrietta's small, dying hometown of Clover, Virginia — a land of wooden quarters for enslaved people, faith healings, and voodoo — to East Baltimore today, where her children and grandchildren live and struggle with the legacy of her cells.