

## **2024-2025 Granville Middle School Eighth-Grade Summer Reading List**

Students who read over the summer maintain comprehension skills, vocabulary, and fluency, critical components of reading achievement. In an effort to sustain literary growth, those entering grade eight are required to complete their summer reading by the first day of school. Assessments will vary based on the level of the course. This document contains book summaries to assist in establishing some background information about the texts. A link is provided to aid in comprehension for the common text which all students are required to read. An additional link is provided for the choice nonfiction text which is required for those taking advanced. \* Young adult literature often focuses on challenges of youth and is classified as coming-of-age text. It may contain mature content. Please be aware of what your child is reading in and out of class.

### **English Language Arts 8 AND Advanced ELA 8**

#### **Required Reading: Common Text**

Complete the literary graphic organizer found [here](#) and bring to class the first week of school.

##### **Lu, Marie – Legend**

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths—until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. In a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets.

### **Advanced English Language Arts 8**

#### **Required Choice: Nonfiction Text**

In addition to *Legend*, only students taking advanced must choose one of the following texts.

Complete the memoir reading guide found [here](#) and bring to class the first week of school.

##### **Beals, Melba Pattillo – Warriors Don't Cry**

In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

##### **Brierley, Saroo – *Lion: A Long Way Home* (Young Readers' Edition)**

Saroo Brierley became lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a family in Australia. Despite being happy in his new home, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. He pored over satellite images on Google Earth seeking out landmarks he recognized. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for. Then he set off on a journey back to India to see if he could find his mother.

##### **Frank, Anne – *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl***

In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period.

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### **Hillenbrand, Laura – *Unbroken* (Young Readers' Adaptation)**

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Force bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the surface, a face appeared. The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. \*Adult version is available if you choose.

### **Moore, Kate – *Radium Girls* (Young Readers' Edition)**

Amid the excitement of the early twentieth century, hundreds of young women spend their days hard at work painting watch dials with glow-in-the-dark radium paint. The painters consider themselves lucky—until they start suffering from a mysterious illness. As the corporations try to cover up a shocking secret, these shining girls suddenly find themselves at the center of a deadly scandal.

### **Rhodes, Ashley – *Three Little Words***

Ashley Rhodes-Courter was three years old when police came to arrest her birth mother and place Ashley and her brother in foster care. During her nine years in foster care, she moved from home to home, sometimes taking all her clothing and possessions stuffed in garbage bags and sometimes having to leave everything behind. The only things that were consistent in her life for all of those years were wondering when she would move again and feeling that she was special to no one.

### **Sheinkin, Steve – *Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team***

An astonishing underdog sports story—and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. Expertly told by three-time National Book Award finalist Steve Sheinkin, it's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat. Jim Thorpe: Super athlete, Olympic gold medalist, Native American. Pop Warner: Indomitable coach, football mastermind, Ivy League grad. Before these men became legends, they met in 1907 at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in American football history. Called "the team that invented football," they took on the best opponents of their day, defeating much more privileged schools in a series of breathtakingly close calls, genius plays, and bone-crushing hard work.

### **Slater, Dashka – *The 57 Bus***

In the fall of 2013, on a bus ride home, a young man set another student on fire. In a small private high school, Sasha, a white teen with Asperger's, enjoyed "a tight circle of friends," "blazed through calculus, linguistics, physics, and computer programming," and invented languages. Sasha didn't fall into a neat gender category and considered "the place in-between...a real place." Encouraged by parents who supported self-expression, Sasha began to use the pronoun *they*. They wore a skirt for the first time during their school's annual cross-dressing day and began to identify as genderqueer. On the other side of Oakland, California, Richard, a black teen, was "always goofing around" at a high school where roughly one-third of the students failed to graduate. Within a few short years, his closest friends would be pregnant, in jail, or shot dead, but Richard tried to stay out of real trouble. One fateful day, Sasha was asleep in a "gauzy white skirt" on the 57 bus when a rowdy friend handed Richard a lighter.

