

## 8th Grade Summer Reading List (2024) Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School

*Anything But Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason Blake is an autistic twelve-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does. Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that PhoenixBird--her name is Rebecca--could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is.

*Believe: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand Young Readers' Edition Hardcover* by Eric LeGrand and with Mike Yorkey

*Believe* is the profoundly moving story of Eric LeGrand, the former defensive tackle for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights football team, who suffered a severe spinal cord injury and was left paralyzed by a crushing on-field tackle during a heated game with Army. A remarkable true account of a courageous young athlete whose unshakable faith, spirit, positive outlook, and rousing motto, "BELIEVE!" would serve as inspiration to legions of fans—and as motivation in his own quest to walk again—Eric's story has received national attention, heavily covered by ESPN and *Sports Illustrated*. It will lift the hearts of every reader.

*Ghost (Track)* by Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

*Hour of the Bees* by Lindsay Eagar

While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move her grandfather into a home for people with dementia. At first, Carol avoids prickly Grandpa Serge. But as the summer wears on, Carol finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by the crazy stories he tells her about a healing tree, a green-glass lake, and the bees that will bring back the rain and end a hundred years of drought. As the line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible — and what it means to be true to her roots.

*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

*King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender

Twelve-year-old Kingston James is sure his brother Khalid has turned into a dragonfly. When Khalid unexpectedly passed away, he shed what was his first skin for another to live down by the bayou in their small Louisiana town. Khalid still visits in dreams, and King must keep these secrets to himself as he watches grief transform his family. It would be easier if King could talk with his best friend, Sandy Sanders. But just days before he died, Khalid told King to end their friendship, after overhearing a secret about Sandy—that he thinks he might be gay. "You don't want anyone to think you're gay too, do you?"

But when Sandy goes missing, sparking a town-wide search, and King finds his former best friend hiding in a tent in his backyard, he agrees to help Sandy escape from his abusive father, and the two begin an adventure as they build their own private paradise down by the bayou and among the dragonflies. As King's friendship with Sandy is

reignited, he's forced to confront questions about himself and the reality of his brother's death.

*The Emperor's Riddle* by Kat Zhang From acclaimed author Kat Zhang comes a "fast-paced mystery adventure" (BCCB) about a girl who embarks on a hunt for a long-lost treasure while on a summer trip to China. Mia Chen is on what her mother calls a Grand Adventure. She's not sure what to make of this family trip to China, and didn't want to leave her friends for the summer, but she's excited about the prospect of exploring with her Aunt Lin, the only adult who truly understands her.

*The Beautiful Struggle (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

As a child, Ta-Nehisi Coates was seen by his father, Paul, as too sensitive and lacking focus. Paul Coates was a Vietnam vet who'd been part of the Black Panthers and was dedicated to reading and publishing the history of African civilization. When it came to his sons, he was committed to raising proud Black men equipped to deal with a racist society, during a turbulent period in the collapsing city of Baltimore where they lived.

Coates details with candor the challenges of dealing with his tough-love father, the influence of his mother, and the dynamics of his extended family, including his brother "Big Bill," who was on a very different path than Ta-Nehisi. Coates also tells of his struggles at school and with girls, making this a timely story to which many readers will relate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment (2024)**

**Directions:** Read one book from the summer reading list. While you read, copy a total of **four quotes** that reveal interesting details about one specific main character. Next to each quote, write the page number where it can be found. Then, write a brief reflection explaining what the quote reveals about the character. The quotes should follow a sequential order, and they should come from various parts of the book.

**NOTE:** This assignment will be collected during the first week of school.

**Title of Book:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Character's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Direct Quote</b>	<b>Page #</b>	<b>What does the quote reveal about the main character?</b>
1. Select a quote from the <b>beginning</b> of the book.			
2. Select a quote from the <b>middle</b> of the book.			
3. Select a quote from the <b>middle</b> of the book			

4. Select a quote from the <b>end</b> of the book.			
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Identify a main character from the summer book, and compare/contrast him or her to a character from a different book, movie, or TV show that you have read or watched.

<b>Title of other book, TV show, or movie:</b> _____	<b>Name of character:</b> _____
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Write a paragraph comparing the main character selected from the summer book with the character selected from a different book, movie, or TV show. Make sure to use complete sentences for your response. Your response should contain a minimum of 5 sentences.

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