

## 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.

***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.

***A Time to Dance, Padma Venkatraman*** Padma Venkatraman's inspiring story of a young girl's struggle to regain her passion and find a new peace is told lyrically through verse that captures the beauty and mystery of India and the ancient *bharatanatyam* dance form. This is a stunning novel about spiritual awakening, the power of art, and above all, the courage and resilience of the human spirit.

Veda, a classical dance prodigy in India, lives and breathes dance—so when an accident leaves her a below-knee amputee, her dreams are shattered. For a girl who's grown used to receiving applause for her dance prowess and flexibility, adjusting to a prosthetic leg is painful and humbling. But Veda refuses to let her disability rob her of her dreams, and she starts all over again, taking beginner classes with the youngest dancers. Then Veda meets Govinda, a young man who approaches dance as a spiritual pursuit. As their relationship deepens, Veda reconnects with the world around her, and begins to discover who she is and what dance truly means to her.

***King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender (fiction, 259 pgs)** 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.