

2024 Summer Reading 8th Grade

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” -Harriet Tubman

Welcome eighth graders! Are you ready for what this year has in store for you? Your teachers are looking forward to meeting and working with you this year. We hope this year will be filled with lasting memories, good citizenship, and purposeful, disciplined work to prepare you for what awaits you in high school.

This summer we would like you to read **ONE** title from the *8th Grade Summer Reading Book List* or select a book of your choice. We encourage you to read as many additional titles as you wish. As you read, be sure to take notes on the book, focusing on the essential question, **How do people become agents of change?**, literary elements and/or the author's craft. You may use a notebook or post-it notes to keep track of your thoughts and ideas about the book. Taking thorough and accurate notes will help you remember the story and prepare for a Socratic Seminar when you return to school.

As you read, reflect on the skills and characteristics of effective leaders and change agents. As young adults, it is also important for you to develop an awareness of what affects your attitude and outlook on life. This self-awareness will help you communicate more effectively, understand others' feelings, and develop better relationships.

Please know that at the end of September, you will be participating in a Socratic Seminar. Each student will be sharing their views and ideas based on the book they chose to read and painting they chose to analyze. At the conclusion of the Socratic Seminar, your teacher will ask you to write a reflection as an in - class assignment. This will count as a written grade towards your first-quarter grade.

Tasks and Resources

Task: You will complete a reflection in which you begin to dive into our Essential Question: *How do people become agents of change?*

In order to complete this task, you will need to do the following:

1. Read the text of your choice from the *8th Grade Summer Reading Book List* or **a book of your choice** that aligns to the above essential question.
2. To prepare to participate in a Socratic Seminar when you return to school:
 - Record** your thoughts & ideas in a notebook. These notes will help you contribute to the Socratic Seminar discussion.
 - Choosing one** quote from the beginning, middle, and end of the text (three quotes in total) that is relevant and made an impact on you. Be sure to have at least three quotes in total.

* You will need your notes quotes when you come back to school so be sure to keep them in a notebook.



Questions to consider . . .

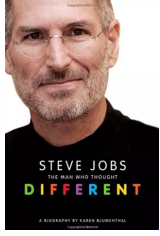
As you read and prepare for a Socratic Seminar and the upcoming school-year, consider the following questions:

- What are the qualities of a successful person/leader?
- What personal qualities can help people become agents of change?
- How can a person's decisions and actions change his/her life or the lives of others?
- Does adapting to change make our lives better?
- How can life experiences lead to change?
- How can conflict lead to change?
- How are people changed through their relationships with others?
- What is community and what are the individual's responsibilities to the community as well as the community's responsibilities to the individual?
- Can we make the changes we need to live well in the future?
- How can we know what is right, fair, and true?
- Can we have a future where everyone will have all that they need?
- What does it take to be a JUST person?
- How can literature serve as a vehicle for change?

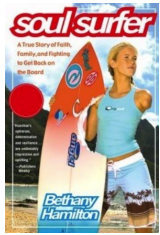


8th Grade

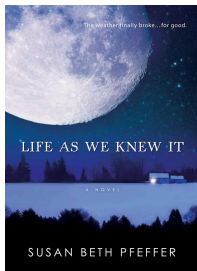
Summer Reading Book List



Steve Jobs by Karen Blumenthal
From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniak. Then came the core and hallmark of his genius--his exacting moderation for perfection, his counterculture life approach, and his level of taste and style that pushed all boundaries. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched.



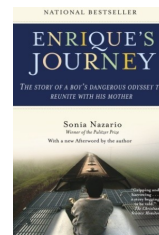
Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton
They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing—not even the loss of her arm—could come between her and the waves? That Halloween morning in Kauai, Hawaii, Bethany responded to the shark's stealth attack with the calm of a girl with God on her side.



Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer
When a meteor knocks the moon closer to earth, Miranda, a high school sophomore, takes shelter with her family.
Told in a year's worth of journal entries, *Life as We Knew It* chronicles the human struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world. As August turns dark and wintery in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.



I Beat the Odds by Michael Oher
Michael Oher is the young man at the center of the true story depicted in "The Blind Side" movie (and book) that swept up awards and accolades. Though the odds were heavily stacked against him, Michael had a burning desire deep within his soul to break out of the Memphis inner-city ghetto and into a world of opportunity. This is the first time he shares his account of his story in his own words, revealing his thoughts and feelings with details that only he knows, and offering his point of view on how anyone can achieve a better life.



Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario
A true story from award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounting the odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.
In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States. When Enrique is five years old, his mother, Lourdes, too poor to feed her children, leaves Honduras to work in the United States. The move allows her to send money back home to Enrique so he can eat better and go to school past the third grade. It is an epic journey, one thousands of immigrant children make each year to find their mothers in the United States.