Read a minimum of THREE books this summer.

- **Book 1:** ALL rising 8th graders must read *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Please read this book in August so it's fresh in your mind.
- **Book 2:** Choose your second book from the list below.
- **Book 3:** Choose at least ONE other book based on personal preferences (it may be from this list but does not need to be).

Bring paper copies of all books to the first week of school and be prepared for an assessment on them.

The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge **by Eugene Yelchin and M. T. Anderson.** *Fantasy fiction. 2018.* In this illustrated satire of war, propaganda, and prejudice, an elf and goblin seek to overcome cultural misunderstandings and avert a war.

A Girl Like That **by Tanaz Bhathena.** *Realistic fiction. 2018.* In Saudi Arabia, sixteen-year-old half-Hindu/half-Parsi Zarin, class troublemaker and rule-breaker, desperately wants to escape her aunt and uncle's house. Porus, a new friend, could help.

Warriors Don't Cry **by Melba Beals.** *Nonfiction; history. 1994.* Beals, a member of the Little Rock Nine, chronicles her harrowing junior year at Central High where she underwent segregationists' brutal organized campaign of terrorism. True story.

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie **by Alan Bradley.** *Mystery fiction. 2009.* Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, must exonerate her father of murder; her investigation will lead her all the way to the King of England.

New Boy **by Tracy Chevalier.** *Historical fiction. 2005.* Chevalier recreates Shakespeare's *Othello* on a Washington 6th grade schoolyard in the 1970s when a black boy, new to the school, develops a friendship with the most popular white girl in school.

Jess, Chunk, and the Road Trip to Infinity **by Kristin Elizabeth Clark.** *Realistic fiction. 2016.* Last time Jess saw her dad, she was a boy. Now she's on a road trip with her friend Chunk to address some unfinished business with her father.

Whale Talk **by Chris Crutcher.** *Sports fiction. 2001.* Follows a group of misfits, the Cutter All Night Mermen, as they struggle to find their places in a school that has no place for them.

The Palace of Illusions **by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.** *Historical fiction. 2008.* A reimagining of the world-famous Indian epic, the Mahabharata, and relevant to today's war-torn world, this novel is half history, half myth, and wholly magical.

The House of the Scorpion **by Nancy Farmer.** *Science fiction. 2004.* In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the one-hundred-forty-two-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire.

Blood Red Horse **by K. M. Grant.** *Historical fiction. 2006.* Will has a small chestnut stallion with a white blaze in his brow. Ellie, a fair maiden, is supposed to marry Will's older brother. And King Richard is calling for a Crusade to the Holy Land.

Girl in the Blue Coat **by Monica Hesse.** *Historical fiction. 2016.* In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke—a 'finder' of black-market goods—is tasked with finding a Jewish girl a customer had been hiding, who has seemingly vanished.

Red Scarf Girl **by Ji-li Jiang.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1997.* Twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has a bright future. Then Mao Zedong launches China's Cultural Revolution. When Ji-li's family is accused of capitalist crimes, all of her beautiful dreams burst.

Technically, You Started It **by Lana Wood Johnson.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* A hilarious, witty novel structured as an ongoing series of text messages about love, friendship, sexual orientation, and mental health.

A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking **by T. Kingfisher.** *Fantasy fiction. 2020.* In a world full of magic, a young baker must learn how to harness her talent of controlling bread to protect her kingdom.

Obasan **by Joy Kogawa.** *Historical fiction. 1994.* This semi-autobiographical, award-winning novel tells the story of the evacuation, relocation, and dispersal of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War.

***Shackleton's Stowaway* by Victoria McKernan.** *Adventure fiction. 2005.* A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away on the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition.

***The Apothecary* by Maile Meloy.** *Fantasy fiction. 2011.* When a friend's father is kidnapped, fourteen-year-old Janie must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the *Pharmacopoeia,* and keep it out of the hands of Russian spies in 1950s London.

***Monster* by Walter Dean Myers.** *Realistic fiction. 2008.* While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script.

***The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa.** *Realistic fiction. 2009.* A housekeeper and her son create a quasi-family unit with the elderly mathematics professor whose house she cleans. He has no long-term memory and connects with people through baseball and numbers.

***Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor.** *Fantasy fiction. 2011.* In Nigeria, Sunny Nwazue navigates her new path after learning that she has magical powers and has been recruited to fight an evil spirit.

***Airborn* by Kenneth Oppel.** *Science fiction. 2004.* Matt, a cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living aloft.

***Tash Hearts Tolstoy* by Kathryn Ormsbee.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* After a shoutout from one of the Internet's superstar vloggers, Tash Zelenka suddenly finds herself and her obscure, amateur web series *Unhappy Families*, thrust in viral limelight.

***The Chosen* by Chaim Potok.** *Classic fiction. 1967.* Classic story of two fathers and two sons and the pressures on all of them to pursue the religion they share, Judaism, in the way that is best suited to each.

***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi.** *Nonfiction. 2020.* An exploration of racism and antiracism in America, "remixed" for young adults.

***Jackaby* by William Ritter.** *Fantasy fiction. 2014.* Newly arrived in 1892 New England, Abigail Rook becomes assistant to R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with the ability to see supernatural beings.

***My Brother's Shadow* by Monika Schröder.** *Adventure fiction. 2011.* In 1918 Berlin, sixteen-year-old Moritz struggles to do what is right in his relationships with his job, with his socialist mother and sister, and with his WWI veteran brother.

***Girl in Reverse* by Barbara Stuber.** *Historical fiction. 2014.* Lillian Firestone is Chinese, but the kids in her 1951 Kansas City high school can't separate her from the North Koreans that America is at war with. Frustrated, Lily searches for her birth mother.

***Lucky Child* by Loung Ung.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 2005.* (Note: Text includes graphic violence). Ten-year-old Loung Ung was the "lucky child," chosen to accompany her eldest brother to America while her sister and brothers remained behind in Cambodia under the violent regime of the Khmer Rouge. In alternating chapters, she gives voice to Chou, the beloved older sister.

***Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* Jade, one of the few black girls at her private school, is singled out for a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. But Jade doesn't feel she's "at-risk" at all; in fact, she may have a lot to teach.

***The Extraordinary and Unusual Adventures of Horatio Lyle* by Catherine Webb.** *Mystery fiction. 2007.* With a passion for science and invention, Horatio Lyle teams up with a reformed pickpocket and a rebellious young gentleman to investigate a conspiracy.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.** *Historical fiction. 2006.* The character Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and storytelling help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.