8th Grade Summer Reading 2026-2027

All eighth graders are required to read and annotate

- ☐ *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys.

Students will write about this novel during the first few weeks of class, so annotations are important! Focus on these themes: *family, guilt, heroism,* and *fate.*

In addition, eighth graders should read **two books from the list below that they have not read before and complete two activities listed on the attached chart.** They are not required to annotate their choice books. Graphic and audio versions are acceptable for choice books. Titles selected echo themes explored in English class: power, corruption, independence, human nature, loss of innocence, survival, freedom and equality, and human connection.

**Books available in the libraries at St.Mary's or on OverDrive*

- ☐ *Arc of a Scythe* series by Neal Shusterman*
- ☐ *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys*
- ☐ *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein*
- ☐ *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury*
- ☐ *Flygirl* by Sherri Smith*
- ☐ *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen*
- ☐ *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai*
- ☐ *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds*
- ☐ *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor*
- ☐ *The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X. R. Pan*
- ☐ *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak*
- ☐ *The Giver* by Lois Lowry*
- ☐ *The Grace Year* by Kim Liggett
- ☐ *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas*
- ☐ *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer*
- ☐ *The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins*
- ☐ *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner*
- ☐ *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld*
- ☐ *Wilder Girls* by Rory Power*

8th Grade Summer Reading Activity Chart

Directions: After reading two books from the list, choose **two different activities** below and complete them by the first day of school. Be sure to include titles and authors, and label your projects with your name and grade.

Get Artsy!	Be Creative!	Think Outside the Book!
Book Jacket Redesign: Design a new book cover for a summer reading book. Consider the themes, characters, and setting.	**Soundtrack:** Imagine your book as a movie and create a soundtrack. List 6 song titles and artists that capture the mood and themes, and explain (2-3 sentences) why each song belongs.	**Book-Inspired Recipe:** Create a recipe inspired by one of your books. This could be a dish mentioned in the story, something that reflects a character's personality, or even a symbolic food item related to a theme. Then explain in a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) what makes this dish so important.
Comic Strip: Turn a scene from your book into a comic strip. Use dialogue bubbles and illustrations to tell the story.	**Map It Out:** Draw and color a map of the book's setting. Include important locations and label them with details from the story.	**Write a New Ending:** Write a one-page retelling of or epilogue to the book's ending. What will you change? What will you keep the same?
Character Collage: Make a collage representing a character from your book. Use images and words from magazines, newspapers, or drawings.	**Poem & Illustration:** Write a poem (at least 8 lines; any form) inspired by the book and create an illustration to go with it.	**Social Media Profile:** Create a profile page (on paper) including posts, images, and interactions that reflect the character's personality, experiences, and relationships within the story.