



Bernardsville Middle School
2011 Summer Reading
Students Entering Grade 8



Please Note: All suggested summer reading titles are recommended for the 8th grade reading level. It is up to you and your parents/guardians to decide which books are appropriate for you.

One School, One Book

All STUDENTS Entering 8th Grade SHOULD read:

Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie – Jordan Sonnenblick

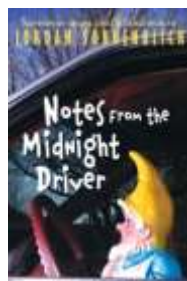


When his younger brother becomes very sick, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family.

In addition, all students entering 8th grade should read at least one of the following titles by Jordan Sonnenblick:



After Ever After:
***Sequel to Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie!**
 Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeffrey still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa.



Notes from the Midnight Driver:
 After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, sixteen-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love, and forgiveness.



Zen and the Art of Faking It:
 When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer -and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

Top Teacher Picks:

The Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Read these eight classic Sherlock Holmes mysteries, including "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "Silver Blaze," and "The Reigate Puzzle."

A one-volume edition of the trilogy which tells of the quest undertaken by the hobbit Frodo and his companions to journey across Middle-earth and cast the evil One Ring, into the Cracks of Doom.

- Mrs. White, Literacy – Grade 8

The Fall of the House of Usher: and other tales – Edgar Allan Poe

This book of short stories presents fifteen tales of horror by Edgar Allan Poe, including "The Fall of the House of Usher."

Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel – Jay Asher

High school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

The Lord of the Rings: Single-Volume Edition – J.R.R. Tolkien

***The Body of Christopher Creed* – Carol Plum-Ucci**

Torey Adams, a high school junior with a seemingly perfect life, struggles with doubts and questions surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the class outcast.

- Ms. Both, Literacy - Grade 8

***The Maze Runner* – James Dashner**

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

***Life As We Knew It (Series)* – Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Additional Suggested Titles:

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* - Sherman Alexie**

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Native American is the school mascot.

***Leviathan* – Scott Westerfeld**

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

***Eon: Dragoneye Reborn* - Alison Goodman**

Sixteen-year-old Eon hopes to become an apprentice to one of the twelve energy dragons of good fortune and learn to be its main interpreter, but to do so will require much, including keeping secret that she is a girl.

***Journey to the Center of the Earth* - Jules Verne**

Jules Verne's classic nineteenth-century science-fiction story about a scientist who leads a group on a treacherous journey to the center of the earth and discovers a lost civilization.

***The Vampire Diaries* – L.J. Smith**

Two vampire brothers, Stefan and Damon, are torn apart by their mutual love for Elena, a golden girl who can have any boy she wants.

***The Once and Future King* - T.H. White**

Read the story of the youth and reign of King Arthur, the establishment of the Round Table, and the search for the Holy Grail.

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

***The Compound* - S.E. Bodeen**

Fifteen-year-old Eli, locked inside a radiation-proof compound built by his father to keep them safe following a nuclear attack, begins to question his future, as well as his father's grip on sanity, as the family's situation steadily disintegrates over the course of six years.

- Miss MacGorman, BMS School Librarian

***City of Bones* – The Mortal Instruments Series – Cassandra Clare**

Suddenly able to see demons and the Darkhunters who are dedicated to returning them to their own dimension, fifteen-year-old Clary Fray is drawn into this bizarre world when her mother disappears and Clary herself is almost killed by a monster.

***The Hunger Games Trilogy* - Suzanne Collins**

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

***Stranger with My Face* - Lois Duncan**

A seventeen-year-old senses she is being spied on and probably impersonated, but when she discovers what actually is occurring, it is more unbelievable than she ever imagined.

***Ender's Game* – Orson Scott Card**

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

***7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers* - Sean Covey**

Presents self-assessments, self-examination questions, journal prompts, and other activities designed to help teenagers gain an awareness of their character, strengths, and weaknesses and improve themselves by strengthening their self-esteem, self-control, friendships, and focus on goals.

Images and Summaries from:
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