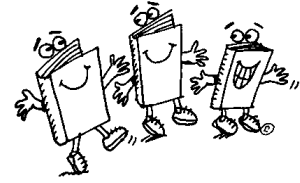


## **Bernardsville Middle School Suggested Summer Reading List**



### **Students Entering Grade 8**

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

#### **Top Teacher Picks:**

##### ***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.

##### ***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.

**- Ms. Both, Literacy - Grade 8**

##### ***The Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes* – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

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

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

Presents fifteen tales of horror by Edgar Allan Poe, including "The Fall of the House of Usher."

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

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 Hunger Games* - 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.

##### ***The Compound* by 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.

##### ***Waiting for Normal* - Leslie Connor**

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

**- Miss MacGorman, Middle School Media Specialist**

#### **Suggested Titles:**

##### ***3 Willows* - Anna Brashares**

Ama, Jo, and Polly, three close friends from Bethesda, Maryland, are looking forward to high school, but wonder if their relationship will survive the challenges that each girl faces over the summer break.

##### ***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.

##### ***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.

##### ***The Alchemyst* - Michael Scott**

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle

between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

***Circle Unbroken* - Sollace Hotze**

Captured by a roving band of Sioux Indians and brought up as the chief's daughter, Rachel is recaptured by her white family and finds it difficult to adjust, as she longs to return to the tribe.

***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.

***If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period* - Gennifer Choldenko**

Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at an elite private school, describe how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate.

***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.

***Keeper* - Mal Peet**

Paul Faustino learns about world-famous goalkeeper, El Gato's encounter with a mystical mentor named the Keeper, in the South American rain forest and the magical lessons he learned under his tutelage that helped him become the best in the world.

***King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* - Roger Lancelyn Green**

A retelling of the story of the boy fated to be the "true-born King of Britain," covering his glorious reign and his tragic, yet triumphant, passing.

***Life As We Knew It* - Susan Beth Pfeffer**

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.

***Nation* - Terry Pratchett**

A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives.

***Number Devil* - Hans Magnus Enzensberger**

Annoyed with his math teacher who assigns word problems and won't let him use a calculator, twelve-year-old Robert finds help from the number devil in his dreams.

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

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

***The Princess Bride* - William Goldman**

Westley, a farm boy, goes off to seek his fortune shortly after declaring his love for Buttercup, the most beautiful woman in the world, but their relationship is put to the test when his ship is captured by pirates and she is summoned to become the bride of the prince.

***Snow Bound* - Harry Mazer**

Westley, a farm boy, goes off to seek his fortune shortly after declaring his love for Buttercup, the most beautiful woman in the world, but their relationship is put to the test when his ship is captured by pirates and she is summoned to become the bride of the prince.

***Stonecutter* - Leander Watts**

In 1835 in rural New York State, apprentice stonecutter Albion Straight relates his experiences when he is hired by the strangely menacing John Good to carve a statue of his daughter.

***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.

***The Watsons Go to Birmingham* - Christopher Paul Curtis**

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Summaries from:

[Titlewave](http://Titlewave.com). Follett Library Resources. Titlewave.com