



**Bernardsville Middle School
2010 Summer Reading
Students Entering Grade 8**

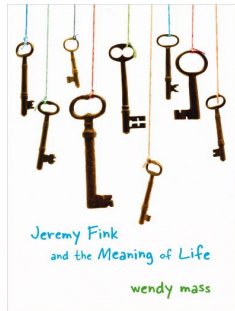


PLEASE NOTE: All suggested summer reading titles are recommended for the 8th grade reading level. It is up to you and your parents/guardians to decide which books are appropriate for you.

One School, One Book

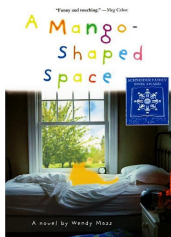
All STUDENTS Entering 8th Grade SHOULD read:

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life – Wendy Mass



Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

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



A Mango-Shaped Space: Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.



Leap Day: On her fourth Leap birthday, when she turns sixteen, Josie has a number of momentous experiences, including taking her driver's test, auditioning for a school play, and celebrating with her family and friends.



Heaven Looks A Lot Like a Mall: After an accident in gym class puts sixteen-year-old Tessa into a coma, she re-evaluates her life by visiting the mall stores where significant events in her life took place.

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."

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."

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

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 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 Hunger Games Trilogy* - Suzanne Collins**

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen 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.

***Life As We Knew It (Series)* – 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.

***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.

- Miss MacGorman, BMS School Librarian

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.

***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.

***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.

***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 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.

***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.

***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.

