

8th Grade Summer Reading 2009

To: Future 8th Graders
From: Jr. High Department, St. Anthony's School



Summer is a time for relaxation and expanding your horizons. We believe that part of the process involves reading. Summer reading is important for several reasons. First, very well educated persons should make reading a part of their leisure activities. Reading is informative and entertaining, and habitual reading will make you a better writer, conversationalist, public speaker, scholar, and thinker.

Below you will find your required reading. You may choose any two books from the list. You must read a minimum of two books this summer though you are encouraged to read more. You will complete projects and take A.R. tests over the required reading during the first few weeks of classes in August. Hardly anyone has a perfect memory. Be sure to take some notes as you read, either in a notebook or in the books themselves so you have detailed reminders to review. Circle or highlight character names, settings, main plot details, and other important specifics that are necessary to display a thorough comprehension of the summer reading. Most of all, ENJOY!

Focus question as you read:

How do the themes of your chosen books relate to your responsibility as an 8th grader at St. Anthony's?

8th Grade Choices (choose TWO of the following):

Holes (Louis Sacher) Reading Level: 4.6, AR Points: 7.0 (Fiction)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a cure on a distant relative, Stanley is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert.

The View from Saturday (E.L. Konigsburg) Reading Level: 5.9, AR Points: 7.0 (Fiction)

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Bridge to Terabithia (Katherine Paterson) Reading Level: 4.6, AR Points: 5.0 (Fiction)

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer, who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Heat (Mike Lupica) Reading Level: 5.3, AR Points: 9.0 (Fiction)

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.

The Big Field (Mike Lupica) Reading Level: 5.3, AR Points: 8.0 (Fiction)

Hutch feels threatened when Darryl becomes the shortstop and Hutch is relegated to second base. He tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

Lincoln: A Photobiography (Russell Freedman) Reading Level: 7.7, AR Points: 5.0 (Non-Fiction)

Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

Poetry for Young People: Walt Whitman (Walt Whitman) Reading Level: 7.4, AR Points: 1.0 (Non-Fiction)

This book is an illustrated collection of twenty-six poems and excerpts from longer poems by the renowned nineteenth-century poet, Walt Whitman. The editor is Jonathan Levin.

LIVES: Poems About Famous Americans (Lee Bennett Hopkins) Reading Level: 7.4, AR Points: 0.5 (Non-Fiction)

This book is a collection of poetic portraits of sixteen famous Americans from Paul Revere to Neil Armstrong, by such authors as Jane Yolen, Nikki Grimes, and X. J. Kennedy.