

Grade Eight Suggested Summer Reading List

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr- When Marie-Laure goes blind, aged six, her father builds her a model of their Paris neighborhood, so she can memorize it with her fingers and then navigate the real streets. But when the Germans occupy Paris, father and daughter flee to Saint-Malo on the Brittany coast. In another world in Germany, an orphan boy, Werner, who becomes a master at building and fixing radios, a talent ultimately makes him a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. Werner travels through the heart of Hitler Youth to the far-flung outskirts of Russia, and finally into Saint-Malo, where his path converges with Marie-Laure.

Bloom by Kenneth Oppel The invasion begins-- with rain. Rain that carries seeds. Seeds that sprout--overnight, everywhere. These new plants take over crop fields, twine up houses, and burrow below streets. They bloom--and release toxic pollen. They bloom--and form Venus flytrap-like pods that swallow animals and people. Three kids on a remote island seem immune to the toxic plants. They each have strange allergies--and yet not to these plants. What's their secret? Can they somehow be the key to beating back this invasion?

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai- Set during the Vietnam War, Ha has only known Saigon. Now, she boards a ship headed for hope—in America. This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing, told in poetic verse.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly An account of the previously unheralded but pivotal contributions of NASA's African-American women mathematicians to the space program describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their groundbreaking successes, in a bestselling account that inspired the film.

Refugee by Alan Gratz A tour de force from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (Prisoner B-3087), this timely and powerful novel tells the story of three different children seeking refuge.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott-. The March sisters: talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, are united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.

Now Is the Time for Running by Michael Williams- Just down the road from their families, Deo and his friends play soccer in the dusty fields of Zimbabwe, cheered on by Deo's older brother, Innocent. It is a day like any other ..until the soldiers arrive and Deo and Innocent are forced to run for their lives, fleeing the wreckage of their village for the distant promise of safe haven. Along the way, they face the prejudice and poverty that await refugees everywhere, and must rely on the kindness of people they meet to make it through.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson The most popular pirate story ever written in English, featuring one of literature's most beloved "bad guys". Its unforgettable characters include: young Jim Hawkins, who finds himself owner of a map to Treasure Island, where the fabled pirate booty is buried; honest Captain Smollett, heroic Dr. Livesey, ambiguous Long John

Silver - one moment a friendly, laughing, one-legged sea-cook . . .and the next a dangerous pirate leader- and many more!

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom-Corrie Ten Boom and her older sister Betsie had been sent to the camp for helping the Jews. At the risk of their own lives, it was the strength of God that sustained them through times of profound horror.

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman-When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw—and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen- Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake--and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure

The Call of the Wild by Jack London-The story follows a dog named Buck, a 140 pound Saint Bernard and Scotch Shepherd mix. Buck is abducted from a comfortable life as a pet and tossed into the chaos of the Klondike Gold Rush and the brutal realities of frontier life. Buck changes hands a number of times before landing in the kindly hands of John Thornton.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card Andrew "Ender" Wiggin thinks he is playing computer simulated war games; he is, in fact, engaged in something far more desperate. The result of genetic experimentation, Ender may be the military genius Earth desperately needs in a war against an alien enemy seeking to destroy all human life.

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes Algernon is a lab mouse who has undergone surgery to increase his IQ, and soon this surgery is applied to Charlie Gordon. The operation successfully increases Charlie's intelligence, but only temporarily, and he is forced to watch himself regress. It's a book both heartbreaking and important.

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay -Paris, July 1942: Ten-year-old Sarah is brutally arrested with her family in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, the most notorious act of French collaboration with the Nazis. Before the police come to take them, Sarah locks her younger brother, Michel, in their favorite hiding place, a cupboard in the family's apartment. She keeps the key, thinking that she will be back.

All the Broken Pieces by Ann Burg- Airlifted from Vietnam when Saigon fell and adopted by a loving American family, Matt Pin, 12, is haunted by what he left behind, even as he bonds with his new little brother and becomes a star pitcher on the school baseball team. Matt has a secret: he feels responsible for the horrific injuries his little brother sustained in Vietnam during the war.

The Art of Racing in the Rain, by Garth Stein-Enzo is a dog. And he belongs to Denny: husband, father, customer service technician. Denny's dream is to be a professional race-car driver, and Enzo recounts the triumphs and tragedies—medical, financial, and legal—they share in this quest, the dangers of the racetrack being the least of their obstacles. Enzo ultimately teaches Denny and the reader that persistence and a cheerful enjoyment of life will see them through to the checkered flag.

Hidden By Miriam Halahmy-For 14-year-old Alix, life on Hayling Island off the coast of England seems insulated from war, terrorism, and refugees. But then, one day at the beach, Alix and her friend Samir pull a drowning man out of the incoming tide.

The Hobbit by J. R.R. Tolkien-A great modern classic and the prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*. Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett After the sudden death of her parents in India, Mary Lennox is sent 'home' to England, and the Yorkshire estate of a distant relative. Sad and lonely, her only interest lies in a secret garden, abandoned after a tragic accident. With the help of Dickon, a local country boy, and Colin, her guardian's invalid son, Mary's spirit is reawakened as they bring the garden back to life.

The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin-After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson- Orphaned at seventeen years old in the mid-18th century, David Balfour soon discovers his father was the eldest son in the family, which would lead David to become the rightful heir to his family's estate. A crooked uncle, however, would not let go of the family inheritance without a fight. After a few failed "accidents," David finds himself abducted on a ship named *The Covenant*. Bound hand and foot, David must escape and find justice for his uncle's misdeeds.

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie- A baffling murder occurs on a train trapped in a snowstorm, and the legendary detective, Hercule Poirot, is called upon to solve the case. Employing his impressive deductive reasoning, he carefully examines all the passengers on the train, picks apart their statements, and tries to find motives – no easy feat with such a sophisticated crowd.

The War that Saved My Life by Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they

find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. A Newbery Honor Book and winner of the Schneider Family Book Award.

They Went Left by Monica Hesse Zofia, a teenage Holocaust survivor, travels across post-war Europe as she searches for her younger brother and seeks to rebuild her shattered life.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys While the Titanic and Lusitania are both well-documented disasters, the single greatest tragedy in maritime history is the little-known January 30, 1945 sinking in the Baltic Sea by a Soviet submarine of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German cruise liner that was supposed to ferry wartime personnel and refugees to safety from the advancing Red Army. The ship was overcrowded with more than 10,500 passengers — the intended capacity was approximately 1,800 — and more than 9,000 people, including 5,000 children, lost their lives.

Song of the Sparrow by Lisa Ann Sandell The year is 490 AD. Fiery 16-year-old Elaine of Ascolat, the daughter of one of King Arthur's supporters, lives with her father on Arthur's base camp, the sole girl in a militaristic world of men. Elaine's only girl companion is the mysterious Morgan, Arthur's older sister, but Elaine cannot tell Morgan her deepest secret: She is in love with Lancelot, Arthur's second-in-command.

The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo Walking through the misty Florida woods one morning, twelve-year-old Rob Horton is stunned to encounter a tiger—a real-life, very large tiger—pacing back and forth in a cage. What's more, on the same extraordinary day, he meets Sistine Bailey, a girl who shows her feelings as readily as Rob hides his. As they learn to trust each other, and ultimately, to be friends, Rob and Sistine prove that some things—like memories, and heartaches, and tigers—can't be locked up forever

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America by Sharon Robinson A warm, intimate portrait of Jackie Robinson, America's sports icon, told from the unique perspective of a unique insider: his only daughter.

Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica Nate Brodie is nicknamed "Brady" not only for his arm, but also because he's the biggest Tom Brady fan. He's even saved up to buy an autographed football. And when he does, he wins the chance for something he's never dreamed of—to throw a pass through a target at a Patriots game for one million dollars. Nate should be excited. But things have been tough lately. His dad lost his job and his family is losing their home. It's no secret that a million dollars would go a long way. So all Nate feels is pressure, and just when he needs it most, his golden arm begins to fail him. Even worse, his best friend Abby is going blind, slowly losing her ability to do the one thing she loves most—paint. Yet Abby never complains, and she is Nate's inspiration. He knows she'll be there when he makes the throw of a lifetime.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak Narrated by Death, the story follows Liesel Meminger, a young girl living with foster parents, Hans and Rosa Hubermann, in Nazi Germany during World War II. While adapting to her new home, she is exposed to the horrors of war and politics.

The Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins.- In the futuristic society of Panem, 24 youth contestants battle to the death in a televised competition. How long will Katniss survive? And what will happen if she does? Trilogy titles: The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, and Mockingjay.

We Had To Be Brave by Deborah Hopkinson Looks at the role of the Kindertransport during World War II, a rescue effort that sent children to other countries in order to escape the Nazis. Includes first-person accounts by survivors and rescuers.