

Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

In collaboration with Santa Monica Public Library, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is pleased to announce our summer reading program prepared by our school librarians.

Because students' maturity and reading levels vary, we encourage parents to participate actively in selecting and/or discussing these titles.

Students are required to read two (2) books from the list for the grade they are entering in the fall. Students are responsible for obtaining their own books. The public libraries, as well as local booksellers, carry most of these titles.

We are very excited about this program and hope the books listed will provide knowledge and pleasure for your child. Have a fantastic summer filled with reading and adventure!

Sincerely, your librarians,

Sarah Ryan, Malibu High School
Amy Di Dario, Lincoln Middle School
Andrea Jarvis, John Adams Middle School

Students must read two (2) books from the 2017 Summer Reading List. When you return in August, you will be assigned a project by your English teacher. To prepare for your in-class assignment, consider taking notes on each book including:

Book Information

*Title/Author

*Genre

*Fiction or Nonfiction

Main Character(s)

*Name(s)

*Age(s)

*Traits

Summarize the plot.

Rate the book on a scale of 1 to 5.

*1 = I did not like it

*5= It was fantastic!

Realistic Fiction

Deuker, Carl | **Night Hoops**

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate.

Lubar, David | **Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie**

Scott, a ninth-grader, keeps a diary with a list of "do's" and "don'ts" for surviving freshman year for his unborn sibling.

Mass, Wendy | **A Mango-Shaped Space**

Thirteen-year-old Mia has kept a secret since third grade. She sees colors in numbers, music and spoken words. When she fails math in eighth grade, she must seek help.

Philbrick, Rodman | **Freak the Mighty**

Max, a large eighth-grader with a learning disability, becomes friends with Freak, an intelligent boy who is physically impaired.

Sones, Sonya | **What My Mother Doesn't Know**

Through poetry, Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

Van Draanen, Wendelin | **Running Dream**

Jessica, a track star, loses her leg in a car accident. All her friends turn their backs on her except a girl with cerebral palsy.

Classics

Austen, Jane | **Emma**

Emma devotes her formidable energies to matchmaking between friends and acquaintances in the village of Highbury.

Stoker, Bram | **Dracula**

From accounts in news clippings to his personal diaries, Count Dracula travels from Transylvania to London in search of new victims.

Fantasy & Science-Fiction

Adams, Douglas | **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**

Seconds before Earth is demolished, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from The Hitchhiker's Guide.

Bacigalupi, Paolo | **Ship Breaker**

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

Card, Orson Scott | **Ender's Game**

In order to develop a secure defense against the next alien attack, government agencies train child geniuses as soldiers.

Dashner, James | **The Eye of Minds**

Michael is a skilled internet gamer in a world of advanced technology. When a cyber-terrorist begins to threaten players, Michael is called upon to seek him out.

Farmer, Nancy | **The House of the Scorpion**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire.

Westerfeld, Scott | **Uglies**

After an apocalyptic-sized disaster that reshaped the world, Tally is about to finally turn 16 and “pretty.” But when her friend Shay disappears, this future is threatened.

Historical Fiction

Bruchac, Joseph | **Code Talker**

Sixteen-year-old Ned lies about his age, joins the Marines, and becomes a code talker. With his secret Navajo language, he helps end the war against Japan.

Mystery & Adventure Fiction

Carter, Ally | **Heist Society**

Teen Kat Bishop is tired of her family’s life of crime, so she enrolls in a top boarding school. When her father gets blamed for stealing a mobster’s art, she must steal back the paintings to save her father’s life.

Du Maurier, Daphne | **Rebecca**

For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, a famous English country house.

Johnson, Maureen | **The Name of the Star**

Rory, from Louisiana, is new at her London boarding school, when murders take place that mimic those of Jack the Ripper.

Lane, Andrew | **Death Cloud**

Sherlock Holmes’ legend begins at the age of 14 when two neighbors die of a mysterious plague. Sherlock and his tutor Amos find out the real reason behind this deadly disease.

Non-Fiction

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell | **They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: the Birth of an American Terrorist Group**

Documents the origin of the Ku Klux Klan, providing personal accounts, congressional documents, diaries and more.

Bascomb, Neal | **The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi**

Recounts how a team of undercover Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Argentina and brought him to trial.

Spiegelman, Art | **Maus, Volume I**

A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler’s Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father’s story and history itself.

St. John, Warren | **Outcasts United (adapted for young people)**

Chronicles the story of a soccer program for boys from refugee families, called the Fugees, who have been resettled in Georgia.

Swanson, James | **Chasing Lincoln's Killer**

The twelve-day pursuit to capture John Wilkes Booth goes from the Nation's capital through the swamps and ends in the forests of Virginia.