



Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading

3 books: 2 required and 1 free choice

Required: *Unbroken (junior version)* by Laura Hillenbrand

Choose ONE of the following by C.S. Lewis:

Out of the Silent Planet

Perelandra

That Hideous Strength

Since most children of this age can read the majority of grade-level books for themselves, the following list will include a majority of independent reads, though there are a few that can be chosen as family read alouds, as [research](#) has proven that reading aloud into adulthood has a beneficial effect. Keep in mind that a Listening Vocabulary is almost always much higher than a Reading Vocabulary. Thus, you can read aloud a book that is above current school reading level, and most children will be able to understand it. After reading a short passage (and reading the illustrations as well), we suggest that you informally ask your child to tell back what he or she has heard, in order to improve comprehension, sequencing, synthesis, concentration, and enjoyment. Picture narrations are also a fun way to enliven the story while increasing comprehension.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but rather some of our particular favorites! There are obviously many more good books that are available. If you seek advice from a librarian, note that the terminology most librarians will best understand is “classic literature,” which for our purposes we call “[living](#)” books. Remember that, with regard to all book suggestions, it is always your responsibility as the parent to assess a book’s suitability for you and your family.

We have included books which employ fantastical themes, due to the fact that we encourage children to enjoy the proper use of the imagination. This is an important aspect of development, and one in which parents are urged to give their child guidance. That is, your child will be looking to you to help define the lines of fantasy versus reality and the proper guidelines therein.

If a title is not in your local library, you may want to check used bookstores, both [physical](#) and [virtual](#). A great summer activity is to visit some of the physical bookstores in your area and see what they have to offer. A must-see is The Story Shop in Monroe, Georgia! Do not neglect the [power](#) of [audiobooks](#), as they are great opportunities for everyone to listen and bond as a family. They can also help with books set in a different locale, as the narrators are often from that particular culture. Enjoy!

On the sheet enclosed, please keep track of the books your child reads or those that you have read to him or her this summer. You will give this record to your child’s teacher at the beginning of school.



Summer Reading List for Rising 8th Grade Students

Alcott, Louisa May
Alder, Elizabeth
Andreola, Karen
Avi
Babbitt, Natalie
Burnett, Frances Hodgson
Carroll, Lewis
Carter, Forest
Cornelissen, Cornelia
Crane, Stephen
Dickens, Charles
Farley, Walter
Foster, Genevieve
George, Jean Craighead
Gipson, Fred
Grahame, Kenneth
Henry, Marguerite
Ibbotson, Eva
Kamkwamba, William

Krensky, Stephen
LasCasas, Bartholomew
Lee, Harper
London, Jack
Lunn, Janet
MacDonald, George
Magnuson, Sally
Marshall, Catherine
McGill, Alice
McPherson, Joyce
Neville, Emily
O'Dell, Scott
O'Hara, Mary
Park, Linda Sue

Pyle, Howard
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
Sewall, Anna
Speare, Elizabeth George
Stevenson, Robert Louis
Ten Boom, Corrie
Tolkien, J.R.R.

Jo's Boys, Eight Cousins, Jack and Jill, Little Men, Little Women
The King's Shadow (medieval story that shows how God uses a disability)
Beautiful Girlhood
Night Journeys (pre-Revolutionary War--about escaped indentured servants)
Tuck Everlasting
The Secret Garden
Alice's Adventure in Wonderland
The Education of Little Tree
Soft Rain (about the Cherokee Trail of Tears)
Red Badge of Courage
The Cricket on the Hearth, A Christmas Carol
The Black Stallion
Augusta Caesar's World
Julie of the Wolves
Old Yeller
Wind in the Willows
King of the Wind
Journey to the River Sea (set in Brazil)
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (true story about hardship and perseverance set in Africa!)
Conqueror and Hero: The Search for Alexander A Biography
The Log of Christopher Columbus' First Voyage to America
To Kill a Mockingbird
The Call of the Wild, White Fang
The Root Cellar
At the Back of the North Wind
The Flying Scotsman: A Biography about Eric Liddell
Christy, Julie
Molly Bannaky
A Piece of the Mountain: The Biography of Blaise Pascal
It's like That
Island of the Blue Dolphin, The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day
My Friend, Flicka
A Long Walk to Water (amazing story about shortage of water in Africa)
A Single Shard
The Story of the Champions of the Round Table
The Yearling
Black Beauty
The Bronze Bow
Kidnapped
The Hiding Place
The Lord of the Rings

Travers, P.L.
Ullman, James Ramsey
Verne, Jules
Whelan, Gloria

Mary Poppins
Banner in the Sky
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Around the World in 80 Days
Listening for Lions (a story about an orphaned missionary girl in Africa)