

Summer Reading Packet for Students Starting English 8 2017 - 2018

This packet includes the book lists for English summer reading and the related assignments. Students should read at least one book from List #1 and one book from List #2. Each student should have access to paper or electronic copies of each book so that they can refer to them in English class. Happy reading!

Summer Reading Checklist to Complete for the First Day of School

Read a Book from List #1	
Complete Assignment #1: Prepare for Book Club Meeting	
Read a Book from List #2	
Complete Assignment #2: Write a Book Review	
Bring Paper or Electronic Copies of BOTH Books to English Class	

*"Reading brings us unknown friends."
--Honore de Balzac*

English 8 Summer Reading List #1:

Read ONE of these books and complete Assignment #1 (Prepare for a Book Club Meeting) before the first day of school. Bring your paper copy of the book with you to English Class!

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, is determined to take his future into his own hands. He leaves his troubled school on the “rez” and attends an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Based on the author’s own experiences, this book chronicles the adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

***Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson**

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood in Portland, Oregon, if she’s ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take every opportunity that comes her way, and she has. She accepted a scholarship at a mostly-white private school and even Saturday morning test prep opportunities. But some opportunities feel more demeaning than helpful, and Jade is struggling to feel seen and heard both at home and at school. When Jade joins a mentoring program and meets her mentor Maxine, she learns to find her voice as a friend, a daughter, an artist, and an activist.

***The Art of Secrets* by James Klise**

When Saba Khan’s apartment burns in a mysterious fire, possibly a hate crime, her high school rallies around her. Her family moves into a rent-free apartment, her Facebook page explodes, and she begins (secretly) dating a popular boy. Then a quirky piece of art donated to a school fundraising effort for the Khans is revealed to be worth a lot of money, and Saba’s life turns upside down again. Tension grows over who deserves the money for this work of art, and things aren’t always what they seem. Through monologues, journal entries, interviews, articles, and official documents, a tangled web of greed, jealousy and suspicion is revealed. Students and teachers alike debate, point fingers, assume, and make shocking accusations about what’s really going on.

English 8 Summer Reading List #2:

Read ONE of these books and complete Assignment #2 (Write a Book Review). Bring your paper copy of the book with you to English Class!

***Zombie Baseball Beatdown* by Paolo Bacigalupi**

Friends Rabi, Miguel, and Joe literally smell trouble wafting from their small town's meatpacking plant, where they find cows living in filthy conditions and behaving oddly. In trying to prevent a zombie cow apocalypse in their town, the boys take on the fair treatment of workers, the meatpacking industry, and big business.

***New Boy* by Julian Houston**

Fifteen year old Rob Garrett escapes the segregated South and proves himself at a Connecticut boarding school in the the late 1950s as their first student of color in the school's history. With talk of rising action for civil rights happening back home, how can Rob hope to make a difference when he's a world away?

***The Story of Owen* by E.K. Johnston**

When Owen's legendary dragon-slayer aunt is too injured to continue working, she starts teaching him the ways of the family business. Owen then meets Siobhan, and their friendship becomes part of an epic saga that changes the future of dragon slaying forever.

***Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer**

When journalist and mountaineer Jon Krakauer reached the top of Mt. Everest in May 1996, he saw nothing that "suggested a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more in guilt-ridden disarray, provided the impetus for this epic real-life account of the disaster.

***The Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

The Call of the Wild, considered by many London's greatest novel, is a gripping tale of a heroic dog that, thrust into the brutal life of the Alaska Gold Rush, ultimately faces a choice between living in man's world and returning to nature. Adventure and dog-story enthusiasts as well as students and devotees of American literature will find this classic work a thrilling, memorable reading experience.

***Tamar* by Mal Peet**

When her grandfather dies, Tamar inherits a box containing a series of clues and coded messages. Out of the past, another Tamar emerges, a man involved in the terrifying world of resistance fighters in Nazi-occupied Holland half a century before. Unraveling his story is about to change Tamar's life forever.

***Bamboo People* by Matali Perkins**

Narrated by Chiko and Tu Reh, teenage boys on opposing sides of the conflict between the Burmese government and the Karenni, one of Burma's many ethnic minorities, this coming-of-age novel takes place against the political and military backdrop of modern-day Burma.

***The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusack**

Death is the narrator of this acclaimed novel about a foster girl named Liesel Meminger who is living outside Nazi-occupied Munich in 1939. She begins stealing books and learns to read with the help of her foster father. She then shares the stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Name _____

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment #2 - Write a Book Review

Which book did you read? (circle one)

Zombie Baseball Beatdown

New Boy

The Story of Owen

Into Thin Air

The Call of the Wild

The Book Thief

Bamboo People

Tamar

Your task is to write a short review of the book you read.

Paragraph 1: BRIEFLY summarize your book

- Include details about characters, setting, major conflicts/challenges and at least one theme of the story.
- Include the name of the text and the author in the first paragraph!
- Avoid spoilers!

Paragraph 2: Your opinion and recommendation

- Explain how you viewed the book and whether you liked it. Here are some questions that can guide you, but you don't have to answer them all:
 - What did you like?
 - What did you think worked well?
 - What didn't you like?
 - What might you have changed, or what do you wish had been written differently?
 - What were the most interesting parts of this book for you?
 - What was it in the story that made you feel this way?
- Recommendation
 - Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

Your book review should be typed. Proofread it for correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.