

Grade 7&8 Summer Reading

The suggested reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The titles listed below are samplings of the works produced by these authors. You can also read other titles by these authors for your suggested reading. Or any other book of your choosing.

For information about the Wakefield Public Schools' Summer Reading initiative and assignment updates, visit wakefieldreads.org.

Suggested Reading List For Students Entering Grades 7 and 8

Fiction

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol.

All Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp.

My Life with Liars by Caela Carter.

Behind the white-washed walls of the Arizona compound, life is simple. Follow the rules, "live in the light," and all would be well. Zylynn is excited to turn thirteen and begin the work of bringing others into the light to save them from the liars and the darkness of the outside world.

Pashmina by Nidhi Chanani.

Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? Who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? Then Pri finds a mysterious pashmina tucked away and forgotten. When she wraps herself in it, she finds India. Or does she?

Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova.

Cardinal Rules One & Two for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids and seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On her first day at her new school, Penelope-Peppi-Torres manages to break them both, sort of.

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Gennifer Choldenko.

Kirsten and Walker stand up to a mean but influential classmate, and they uncover a long-kept secret about themselves and their families.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings.

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends, J.T. and Digger, find themselves entangled in a tragedy that tests their friendship.

The Cat at the Wall by Deborah Ellis.

Clare used to be a 13-year-old girl, but after dying, she has come back as a stray cat in Palestine. Finding herself in the middle of a fast moving situation, she struggles to come to terms with her own past and what she can do to help.

Flush by Carl Hiaasen.

With their father jailed for sinking a floating casino, Noah Underwood and his sister must prove that the owner of the casino is emptying his sewage into the protected waters near them.

Chomp by Carl Hiaasen.

When the difficult star of the reality television show *Expedition Survival* disappears, Wahoo and friend, Tuna, set out to find him while avoiding Tuna's gun-happy father.

Sunny Side Up by Jennifer & Matthew Holm.

Sunny is spending summer vacation with her grandfather in Florida. At first, she is excited, but life in Florida is boring. Why is she there? And will she find anything fun to do at all?

Lemonade Mouth by Mark Peter Hughes.

A disparate group of high school students thrown together in detention form a band to deal with the pressures of the world. Among other hijinks, they protest the removal of a lemonade machine.

Side Effects by Amy Goldman Koss.

Isabelle, not quite 15, is living a normal life of fighting with her younger brother, being disgusted with her parents, and hoping to be noticed by a cute guy. Everything changes in an instant when she is diagnosed with lymphoma.

Dumplin' by Julie Murphy.

Willowdean, or "Dumplin'" according to her mom, has always been at home in her own skin. But after taking a job at a fast-food joint, she meets Bo, a hot former jock. Bo, who seems to like her back! But instead of feeling self-assured, Will find doubts creeping in. Her solution? Join the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant!

We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen.

Stewart, 13, is a socially clueless genius, while Ashley, 14, is popular with everyone but her teachers. Their worlds collide when their parents move them in together. Ashley feels horrified, while Stewart tries to be hopeful. But will their differences let things work out?

Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky.

Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever! "He" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but Grayson fears that sharing it would mean facing ridicule, scorn, rejection, or worse. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free.

Geekerella by Ashley Poston.

Elle Wittimer lives and breathes *Starfield*, the classic sci-fi series she grew up watching with her late father. When teen actor and “dumb heartthrob” Darien Freeman is cast as Prince Carmindor in the reboot, Elle has Opinions and lets them out in a blog post that goes viral. Playing Carmindor is all Darien Freeman’s ever wanted, though, as a long time *Starfield* fan, so what happens when cell phone numbers get crossed?

Piecing me Together by Renée Watson.

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. After being invited to join a mentorship program for ‘at-risk’ girls, she feels tired of being singled out as needing fixing. So she searches to show ways of being real and making a difference.

Sports

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander.

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Pop by Gordan Korman.

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker. Charlie helps train Marcus, but he also keeps Marcus in hot water with his childish behavior.

The Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica.

Nate Brodie's family is having trouble and Nate’s best friend Abby is going blind. A chance at a million dollars for completing a pass in a Patriot’s game can fix things, if only Nate can do it!

Slam by Walter Dean Myers.

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds.

Ghost (real name: Castle) wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. With the help of Coach, can Ghost harness his talent and stay on track?

Adventure & Mystery

The Leaving by Tara Altebrando.

Eleven years ago, six kindergartners went missing without a trace. After all that time, the people left behind moved on, or tried to. Until today. Today *five* of those kids return. They're sixteen, and they are...fine?

I'd Tell You I Love You But Then I'd Have to Kill You by Ally Carter.

Cammie Morgan has never been a normal teen. Raised by spies and attending a secret spy school, she meets a local boy during a routine surveillance class and takes her chance at a regular relationship.

Delilah Dirk and the Turkish Lieutenant by Tony Cliff.

Lovable ne'er-do-well Delilah Dirk has traveled all over the world during the 19th century, participating in all sorts of adventures. Now, she wants to rob a corrupt Sultan. With the aid of her flying boat and new found (and reluctant) friend, Selim, can she manage it?

Zero Day by Jan Gangsei.

Eight years ago, Addie Webster vanished, and her high-profile parents were forced to move on. Her father is now president of the United States, fighting to keep the oval office after a tumultuous first term. Then the unthinkable happens: Addie resurfaces.

Trash by Andy Mulligan.

Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump.

Trapped by Michael Northrop.

The day the blizzard started, no one knew that it was going to keep snowing for a week. No one knew that for those in its path, it would become not just a matter of keeping warm, but of staying alive...

Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds.

Miles Morales is just your average teenager. Dinner every Sunday with his parents, chilling out playing old-school video games with his best friend, Ganke, crushing on brainy, beautiful poet Alicia. He's even got a scholarship spot at the prestigious Brooklyn Visions Academy. Oh yeah, and he's Spider Man. But lately, Miles's spidey-sense has been on the fritz.

Historical Fiction

Invasion by Walter Dean Myers.

Josiah and Marcus are on their way to an uncertain future. One white, one black, their whole lives are ahead of them, yet at the same time, death's whisper is everywhere. It's May 1944. World War II is ramping up, and so are these young recruits, ready and eager.

Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt.

When all of his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read Shakespeare and discuss life.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia.

In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her sisters arrive in California to a cold welcome from their mother, a dedicated poet and printer. While they had hoped to visit Disneyland and spend time with their long absent mother, she sends them to a Black Panther summer camp.

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak.

Death tells the story of Liesel, a German girl in World War II who steals books and uses her talents for story-telling to help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

Fantasy

Truthwitch by Susan Dennard.

Safiya and Iseult just want to be free to live their own lives, but war is coming to the Witchlands. With the help of the cunning Prince Merik and the hindrance of a Bloodwitch bent on revenge, the friends must fight emperors, princes, and mercenaries alike, who will stop at nothing to get their hands on a Truthwitch.

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke.

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force her father into service.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman.

Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be *completely* normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. If Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family.

The Girl from Everywhere by Heidi Heilig.

As the daughter of a time traveler, Nix has spent sixteen years sweeping across the globe and through the centuries aboard her father's ship. But when her father gambles with her very existence, it all may be about to end.

Furthermore by Tahereh Mafi.

There are only three things that matter to twelve-year-old Alice: Mother, who wouldn't miss her; magic and color, which seem to elude her; and Father, who always loved her. It has been almost three years since her father disappeared, and Alice is determined to find him.

The False Prince by Jennifer Nielsen.

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition. He will choose only one to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

First Test by Tamora Pierce.

Ten-year-old Keladry of Mindalen, daughter of nobles, serves as a page but must prove herself to the males around her if she can fulfill her dream of becoming a knight.

Phoebe and her Unicorn by Dana Simpson.

In this graphic novel, reminiscent of *Calvin & Hobbes*, a young girl earns one wish by a unicorn. Phoebe chooses Marigold, the unicorn, to be her obligatory best friend. Through various adventures, can they recognize the loneliness in each other?

Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy by Noelle Stevenson and Grace Ellis.

Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not gonna let any insane quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way!

Science Fiction

The Darkest Minds by Alexandra Bracken.

Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run 'rehabilitation camp' for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children. Feeling like a danger to herself and others, Ruby goes on the run.

The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau.

Sixteen-year-old Cia Vale is chosen to participate in The Testing to attend the University. However, Cia is fearful when she figures out that her friends who do not pass disappear.

Starflight by Melissa Landers.

Solara Brooks needs a fresh start, someplace where nobody cares about the engine grease beneath her fingernails or the felony tattoos across her knuckles. The outer realm may be lawless, but it's not like the law has ever been on her side.

Legend by Marie Lu.

In a dark future, North America has split into two warring nations. Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover a common enemy.

Cinder by Marissa Meyer.

As plague ravages the overcrowded Earth, Cinder, a gifted mechanic and cyborg, becomes involved with handsome Prince Kai and must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect the world in this futuristic take on the Cinderella story.

Nonfiction, Biography, & Autobiography

Breakthrough: How One Teen Innovator is Changing the World by Jack Andraka.

Teen innovator and scientist Jack Andraka tells the story behind his revolutionary discovery. When a dear family friend passed away from pancreatic cancer, Jack was inspired to create a better method of early detection.

Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb by Steve Bascomb.

Watch the teamwork of British Special Ops, a brilliant scientist and refugee Norwegian commandos that foiled Hitler's nuclear ambitions at a hydroelectric dam in Norway, the world's only supplier of an essential ingredient needed by the Nazis to build an atomic bomb.

The Boys in the Boat: the True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel Brown.

Follow the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from America who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. They never expected make it to the Olympics, let alone go on to shock the world by challenging the Germans rowing for Hitler.

Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA by Bridget Heos.

Since the introduction of DNA testing, everyone knows about forensic science, thanks especially to popular television shows. But forensic analysis is not new. People started practicing it thousands of years ago. Follow along with real-life cases telling the history of modern forensic science, from the first test for arsenic poisoning to fingerprinting, firearm and blood spatter analysis, DNA evidence, and all the important milestones in between.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignatofsky.

This book touts the contributions of fifty notable women to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) from the ancient to the modern world.

Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win by Rachel Ignatofsky.

The book highlights the achievements and stories of fifty notable women athletes from the 1800s to today, including trailblazers, Olympians, and record-breakers in more than forty sports.

Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett Krosoczka.

In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson.

Holocaust survivor Leon Leyson, traces his own story as the youngest child in his family and possibly the youngest of the hundreds of Jews rescued by Oskar Schindler.

The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden & the Trial of the Century by Sarah Miller.

This book takes readers along on an investigation into a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden. As the author sorts fact from fiction, a gripping portrait of a woman and a town emerges.

The Pregnancy Project by Gaby Rodriguez.

This is the true story of a high school girl who faked a pregnancy, to see how her peers, teachers, and others would react. What she learned about stereotypes and teen pregnancy will captivate.

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin.

In 1938 a chemist made a shocking discovery that launched a scientific race that spanned three continents. This is the story of the plotting, the deceit, and genius that created the atomic bomb.

Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights by Steve Sheinkin.

On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks. Afterwards, many men refused to go back to work in unsafe, unfair conditions. Fifty faced mutiny charges, meaning decades in jail and even execution.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly.

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater.

Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment.

Smile by Raina Telgemeier.

In this graphic novel autobiography, the author describes how she lost two of her front teeth in an accident when she was twelve and her struggles with various corrective dental techniques.