

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations on your completion of 7<sup>th</sup> grade! We are excited for next fall as you prepare to graduate from YEMS! In order to start the year off on the right foot, we ask that all upcoming students take some time to read at least 2 books on the list below and enjoy reading any independent books of your choosing. We will use these books and others like them in our first reading unit in 8th grade.

Some things you can think about while you read:

- Character traits
- Character motivation
- Character relationships
- How setting impacts characters
- How the reader's perception of the character changes
- Theme

A Note to Families about selecting reading materials: The books in the book list vary in maturity level of content. If you have concerns about content with your child, please use sites like commonsensemedia.org to look up what kind of content the books may contain. Help your child select a book that will be appropriate for them in reading and maturity level. I have marked books with intense content with Trigger Warnings (TW) that will allow students to avoid books that may be upsetting reads for students experiencing trauma. Additionally, many of these books may bring up complex thoughts and feelings for students about current events and American history. Though we will be talking about this in ELA when we return to school, we encourage you to begin the conversation at home with your child as they read. Thank you for your support!

### Fiction Reading Book Choices

Listed by theme in order of reading level--be thoughtful about your choice and choose something at your level.

Descriptions and Reviews are linked!

#### Love

- [Love from A to Z by S.K. Ali](#) - On her way to Qatar to stay with family after being suspended, Zayneb meets another Muslim named Adam, who has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, as they discover what a large role they will play in each other's lives.
- [I Wanna Be Where You Are by Kristina Forest](#) - Chloe is forced to drive cross country with Eli when he threatens to reveal her secret plan to go to a dance audition to her mother
- [The Sun is Also A Star by Nicola Yoon](#) - Natasha and Daniel, total opposites, meet and are willing to risk everything to be together.
- △ [The Lines We Cross by Randa Abdel-Fattah](#) - Michael and Mina fall in love across the protest lines in Australia over Muslim immigration. Will their love tear down barriers?
- △ [The Stars and the Blackness Between Them by Junauda Petrus](#) - Audre and Mabel have been raised in different countries, but through their love, they can weather the storm of pressure against their sexuality.

#### Immigration

- [Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga](#) - After violence in her home of Syria, Jude and her mother move to America, which is much different than what she's seen in movies.
- [American Street by Ibi Zoboi](#) - Fabiola arrives in America from Haiti, but must navigate immigration to get

her mother free from detainment.

△ [Parachutes by Kelly Yang](#) - Dani De La Cruz's trajectory to earn her way to Yale against her wealthy classmates is disrupted when her mother rents a room to Claire Wang, a wealthy Chinese exchange student from Shanghai who seems to have all the freedom in the world. (TW: sexual assault)

### Fitting In

- [Black Boy, White School by Brian F. Walker](#) - When Anthony "Ant" Jones arrives at his new, all-White prep school, he struggles to fit in as the only Black student, but also feels like he doesn't fit in at home anymore either.
- [Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson](#) - Six students find solace in ARTT (a room to talk), the weekly chat they put together to help each other through their struggles (TW: racial profiling)
- [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie](#) - On the reservation, Junior is a loser with one tough friend, a love of drawing, and a great sense of humor, but when he leaves the reservation to an all-white school in a neighboring farm town, he has to wonder whether they just see him as an Indian mascot.
- [The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake](#) - Maleeka struggles with loving her skin, but is inspired by Miss Saunders to be tough and stand up to tough-talking Charlese.
- [Who Put This Song on? by Morgan Parker](#) - Morgan struggles with fitting in and depression, until she finds a group of other outcasts with a love of music like her own.
- [American Born Chinese by Gene Yuen Lang](#) - Three stories of characters trying to fit in come together in a funny, powerful modern fable.

### Identity

- [Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper](#) - Melody has cerebral palsy, but she refuses to let that define her, but she must find a way in a world where most people besides her can walk and talk
- [Watch Us Rise by Renée Watson and Ellen Hagan](#) - Jasmine and Chelsea come together to form a Women's Rights club in their NYC high school, but despite positive support, they also have to deal with online trolls. (TW: microaggressions)
- [The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo](#) - Xiomara Batista wants to join her school's slam poetry club, but is afraid her conservative, religious mother will find out.
- [With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo](#) - Emoni Santiago has to support her daughter and her grandmother while she goes to high school, but she also loves to cook. Can she balance all of her responsibilities with her passion for cooking?
- [Ghost by Jason Reynolds](#) - Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw discovers he has a talent for running, but can he outrun his past and his anger?
- △ [Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds](#) - Ten stories about the lives people live walking home from school come together when a bus falls from the sky.
- △ [Felix Ever After by Kacen Callendar](#) - Felix worries that as a black, queer, transgender student, he is destined to be alone forever, but his experience with a transphobic classmate's messages help him work to fall in love with himself.
- △ [When You Ask Me Where I'm Going by Jasmine Kaur](#) - Six sections explore the challenges of being a woman in a world that doesn't hear her, while telling the story of Kiran and her daughter, Sahaara, as they flee their traumatic life to America, undocumented (TW: sexual assault)

### Race and Racism

- [Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson](#) - Jade is taking every opportunity available to her to use her education to get her out of her neighborhood, but when she gets selected for a mentorship program, she realizes that she has a lot to teach these successful women about the real world and making a difference in the world
- [Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes](#) - When 12-year old Jerome is shot by a police officer, he becomes a

ghost, and led by the ghost of Emmett Till he watches the impact of these events on his family and community (TW: police brutality)

○ [One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia](#) - In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her sisters go to visit their estranged mother, but end up attending a Black Panther summer camp

□ [I'm Not Dying with You Tonight by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal](#) - When two girls, one Black, one White, have to find their way home together as their town erupts in violence over a police shooting, they must navigate their own biases and blindspots as they search for safety (TW: violence, rioting, police brutality)

□ [Slay by Brittney Morris](#) - Kiera Johnson is caught in an uncomfortable secret, when the video game no one knows she developed for Black kids leads to a dispute that ends in murder (TW: violence, death)

□ [The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas](#) - Starr Carter moves seamlessly between the worlds of her poor neighborhood and her fancy suburban private school, but that separation is shattered when she witnesses the police shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil (TW: police brutality)

□ [On the Come Up by Angie Thomas](#) - Bri is an aspiring rapper and the daughter of a legendary hip hop artist who was killed in front of her, but her rapping success is complicated when she becomes the center of a media controversy that is making her out to be someone she's not (TW: police brutality, violence, death)

△ [Dear Martin by Nic Stone](#) - Justyce McAllister is Ivy League-bound, but all his achievements don't matter when he and his friend Manny anger an off-duty cop and shots are fired (TW: police brutality)

△ [All-American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely](#) - When Rashad, a Black boy, is beaten by a neighborhood cop under the accusation of stealing, Quinn, a White classmate and friend of the cop's brother, must decide whether to tell what he witnessed that day (TW: police brutality)

△ [Tyler Johnson was Here by Jay Coles](#) - Marvin Johnson must learn what freedom and justice mean when his twin brother Tyler is fatally shot by police at a party (TW: police brutality)

## Family

○ [Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson](#) - When Claudia's best friend Monday goes missing, she feels she is the only one trying to get her back, but it is clear Monday's family will be of no help

○ [Blended by Sharon Draper](#) - Torn between her life with her Black father in a fancy home and her White mother in a much less fancy home, Isabella feels torn between two worlds and two parts of herself by her parents' divorce

□ [Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo](#) - Camino Rios in the Dominican Republic and Yahaira Rios in NYC, suddenly find out about each other's existence when their father dies in a plane crash (TW: death)

△ [The Girl Who Fell to Earth by Sophia Al-Maria](#) - When Sophia Al-Maria's mother sends her to stay with her husband's family in a Bedouin Camp in Qatar, she is supposed to have a cultural awakening, but she finds new freedom in the most unlikely place

## Fantasy/Future

○ [The Belles by Dhonielle Clayton](#) - Camellia Beauregard is a Belle, one of the citizens in Orléans who controls beauty, a most coveted quality, but Camellia wants to be the most favored, and for that she will have to risk her life

□ [Pet by Akwaeke Emezi](#) - Jam has always been told monsters don't exist, but when she meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told.

△ [Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi](#) - Zélie has a chance to bring magic back to the kingdom of Orisha and strike back against the monarchy that took magic away and took her mother, but she will have to take help from an unlikely source

△ [A Song Below Water by Bethany C. Morrow](#) - Tavia is a siren, but must keep her identity secret to avoid persecution, but her and her best friend Effie's world is shaken when a siren murder trial rocks the nation

△ [Shadowshaper by Daniel José Older](#) - Sierra Santiago discovers a supernatural order called the Shadowshapers, who connect with spirits via paintings, music, and stories.