

## 8th Grade Summer Reading Guidelines

### 8th Grade Literacy

For eighth grade summer reading, all rising 8th graders will be required to read ONE assigned book as well as ONE book of their choice from the Summer Reading List.

Required Summer Reading:

You will read the following:

- ***House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros**

This book will be an essential component to our first Unit of the school year. Please read this book and come to school prepared to discuss it.

A major component of your 8th grade year is preparation for high school. In order to encourage this concept and preparation, you will take ownership of your Summer reading by selecting your own novel, in addition to the required reading above.

Work to accompany Summer Reading:

- Along with the reading of this novel of your choice, you will take notes. The notes you take should emphasize plot and character development. These notes may be handwritten or typed. If handwritten, these notes must be TWO pages. If typed, they may be one FULL page.
- Upon your return to school in August, you will present a “Book Talk” presentation about the novel you chose. The guidelines for this presentation are as follows:

#### **“Book Talk” Presentation Assignment:**

The goal of this assignment is to convince people to read your book!

In the book talk, you must...

- Summarize the plot, but DON'T give away the ending!
- Introduce the main characters (antagonists and protagonists)
- Share the setting of the story
- Classify the conflict
- Critique the book– Did you like it? Why or why not?
- Read a SHORT portion from the book ALOUD to the class. The section should be no shorter than two sentences and no longer than two pages.

When you present you must also include...

- A poster with the requirements listed above
- At least two pictures that apply to the book.
- Something tangible to share that connects to the book in some way.
  - (Ex: trinket, magazine, another book, etc.)
- Your poster should be colorful and neatly organized. Be creative!

Length of the Presentation: The presentation must be between 2 and 5 minutes long.

#### **Due Dates:**

- Written or Typed Book Notes are due **Friday, August 9th 2024**
- Presentations with Posters will be **Monday, August 12th** and **Tuesday, August 13th**

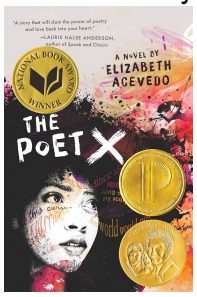
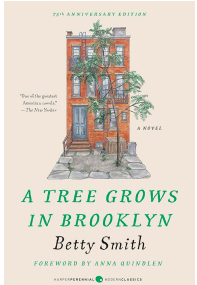
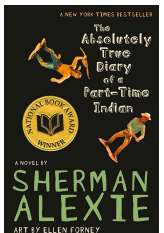
Contact Ms. Bulger or Mrs. Quinn at [kristen.bulger@mnps.org](mailto:kristen.bulger@mnps.org) or [lisa.quinn@mnps.org](mailto:lisa.quinn@mnps.org)

Upon returning to school in August, you will present your “Book Talk” and poster to the class, based on the novel you individually selected from the reading list (NOT *House on Mango Street*). The rubric for this presentation is below. BE PREPARED.

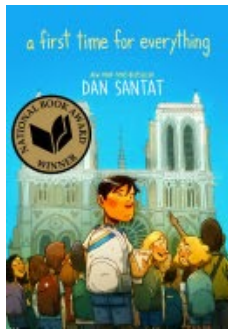
If you are still struggling, contact Ms. Bulger or Ms. Quinn for assistance.

**Note to Parents / Guardians:**

The webpage [www.commonssensemedia.org](http://www.commonssensemedia.org) is an excellent source for parents to use in order to be familiarized with the texts students are reading. The webpage provides “WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW” including the educational value, positive messages, positive role models, violence usage, sex usage, language usage, consumerism usage, and drinking, drugs, and smoking usage for a given novel. We strongly encourage your usage of this website to assist in your child’s summer reading text selection!

Book Options for Choice Novel	Synopsis
<p><b>The Poet X</b> by Elizabeth Acevedo</p> 	<p>Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.</p>
<p><b>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</b> by Betty Smith</p> 	<p>The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the twentieth century. From the moment she entered the world, Francie needed to be made of stern stuff, for the often harsh life of Williamsburg demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior—such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce—no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are tenderly threaded with family connectedness and raw with honesty.</p>
<p><b>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</b> by Sherman Alexie</p> 	<p>Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.</p>
<p><b>A First Time for Everything</b> by Dan</p>	<p>Dan's always been a good kid. The kind of kid who listens to his teachers, helps his mom with grocery shopping, and stays out of trouble.</p>

## Santat

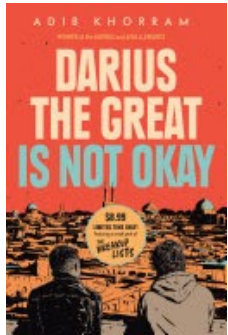


But being a good kid doesn't stop him from being bullied and feeling like he's invisible, which is why Dan has low expectations when his parents send him on a class trip to Europe.

At first, he's right. He's stuck with the same girls from his middle school who love to make fun of him, and he doesn't know why his teacher insisted he come on this trip. But as he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of first experiences begin to change him—first Fanta, first fondue, first time stealing a bike from German punk rockers... and first love.

Funny, heartwarming, and poignant, *A First Time for Everything* is a feel-good coming-of-age memoir based on *New York Times* bestselling author and Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat's awkward middle school years. It celebrates a time that is universally challenging for many of us, but also life-changing as well.

## Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

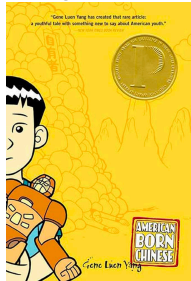


Darius doesn't think he'll ever be enough, in America or in Iran.

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's a Fractional Persian—half, his mom's side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life.

Darius has never really fit in at home in Portland, and he just knows things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn't exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Sohrab introduces Darius to all of his favorite things—mint syrup and the soccer field and a secret rooftop overlooking the city's skyline. He gets Darius an Iranian National Football Team jersey that makes him feel like a True Persian for the first time. And he understands that sometimes, friends don't have to talk. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he's Darioush to Sohrab.

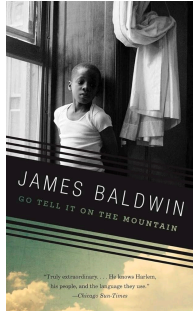
## American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang



All Jin Wang wants is to fit in. When his family moves to a new neighborhood, he suddenly finds that he's the only Chinese-American student at his school. Jocks and bullies pick on him constantly, and he has hardly any friends. Then, to make matters worse, he falls in love with an all-American girl...Born to rule over all the monkeys in the world, the story of the Monkey King is one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables. Adored by his subjects, master of the arts of kung-fu, he is the most powerful monkey on earth. But the Monkey King doesn't want to be a monkey. He wants to be hailed as a god...Chin-Kee is the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, and he's ruining his cousin Danny's life. Danny's a basketball player, a popular kid at school, but every year Chin-Kee comes to visit, and every year Danny has to transfer to a new school to escape the shame. This year, though, things quickly go from bad to worse...These three apparently unrelated tales come together with an unexpected twist, in a modern fable that is hilarious, poignant, and action-packed.

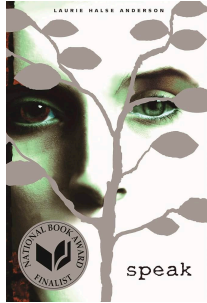
## Go Tell it on the Mountain by James Baldwin

As one of the century's premier American writers, James Baldwin has profoundly altered the nation's social and literary consciousness.



Go Tell It on the Mountain, Baldwin's first novel, brings Harlem and the black experience vividly to life, as it starkly contrasts two generations of an embattled black family.

### Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson



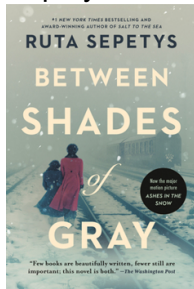
From her first moment at Merryweather High, Melinda Sordino knows she's an outcast. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops – a major infraction in high-school society – so her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't know glare at her. She retreats into her head, where the lies and hypocrisies of high school stand in stark relief to her own silence, making her all the more mute. But it's not so comfortable in her head, either – there's something banging around in there that she doesn't want to think about. Try as she might to avoid it, it won't go away, until there is a painful confrontation. Once that happens, she can't be silent – she must speak the truth. In this powerful audiobook, an utterly believable, bitterly ironic heroine speaks for many a disenfranchised teenager while learning that, although it's hard to speak up for yourself, keeping your mouth shut is worse.

### Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card



In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cut--young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. His psychological battles include loneliness, fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers, and fanning the flames of devotion to his beloved sister. Is Ender the general Earth needs? But Ender is not the only result of the genetic experiments. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives.

### Between Shades of Grey by Ruta Sepetys



In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.

### The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their



story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.