

Bak Middle School of the Arts

Eighth Grade Summer 2020 Reading List

All students entering eighth grade must read at least one book this summer.

Book #1 is a “student choice novel” to be read by all students entering all levels of eighth grade ELA classes. Book #1 should be chosen from the list below. The eighth grade language arts teachers strongly would prefer that you read one of these books, if possible.

However, if you are unable to get a copy of one of these books over the summer due to library closings, shelter in place, or other COVID-19-related issues, then you may opt to read a book from the list* of eBooks that are available online.

Once you have read your choice book (**Book #1**), to complete the summer assignment, you will write an essay as described on the fourth page.

Book #2 is an assigned novel to be read over the summer by students assigned to enter advanced and gifted ELA classes. Therefore students entering advanced and gifted classes must read two (2) novels over the summer: one "choice novel" and the assigned novel.

The assigned novel is **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**. An assignment for this required novel will be given by your teacher during the 1st nine week marking period. Do **not** complete your essay on this novel. Please wait until late July to start reading this novel.

TITLE	AUTHOR	OVERVIEW
Man Who Was Poe	<i>Avi</i>	A captivating mystery in the tradition of Sherlock Holmes
Black Like Me	<i>John H. Griffin</i>	One white man's quest in the Jim Crow era to find justice
Born Confused	<i>Tanuja D. Hidier</i>	A Hindu Indian-American girl tries to find acceptance
Ender's Game	<i>Orson Scott Card</i>	Sci-Fi adventure of a boy military genius involved in unbeatable war games

Eyes of the Dragon	<i>Stephen King</i>	Another hair-raising fantasy from the modern master of horror
Full Tilt	<i>Neal Shusterman</i>	A teen struggles to understand himself while at the same time he must escape from a nightmare amusement park
Gangsta Rap	<i>Ben Zephaniah</i>	A rap artist's search for fame against all the odds
Icebound	<i>Dean Koontz</i>	An icy and dangerous adventure at the very top of the world
Jane Eyre	<i>Charlotte Bronte</i>	A dark, gothic romance of both mystery and love: a true classic
Kira-Kira	<i>Cynthia Kodahata</i>	A Japanese-American girl & her family adjust to life in the South
Romiette and Julio	Sharon Draper	A modern retelling of a twisted, classic, and tragic love story
Sabriel	<i>Garth Nix</i>	High fantasy and adventure including dark secrets and magic
Slam	<i>Walter Dean Myers</i>	The only time Greg feels in control of his life is when he's playing basketball
Speak	<i>Laurie H. Anderson</i>	An unspeakable crime leaves a young girl speechless
Swallowing Stones	<i>Joyce McDonald</i>	One boy's mistake affects an entire community
Sweet Blood	<i>Pete Hautman</i>	A literary feast for vampire lovers
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian	<i>Sherman Alexi</i>	One boy's struggle to rise above the life everyone expects him to live
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	<i>Mark Twain</i>	The original troublemaker, a great adventure and classic read

Hitchhiker's Guide To the Galaxy	<i>Douglas Adams</i>	A quirky, irreverent romp through the galaxy with the last surviving Earthling and a depressed robot. Hilarity ensues.
Any Novel in the Matched Series	<i>Ally Condie</i>	dystopian trilogy where Society knows best (maybe) and chooses your perfect mate for you

*** List of eBooks**

Students who are unable to obtain one of the titles listed above may elect to read a novel from one of the following websites listed below in order to complete the summer assignment for **Book #1**.

Each of these websites offers full and complete texts for Young Adult and Classic novels that are available as FREE eBooks.

Riveted by Simon Teen

<https://rivetedlit.com/free-reads/>

Riveted offers current YA novels for download in HTML (web) version. You need a valid email address to set-up a free account to access the free eBooks. Once you download the book, you should mark it in your favorites for easy access to return to the same book and continue reading in the future.

Library of Congress

<http://www.read.gov/teens/>

Library of Congress offers Classic titles for teens to download in PDF and HTML (website) versions. You do not need an account to access the free eBooks. In the feature window for "Classics" click the small button in the window's top right "See More Classics" and you will have the ability to scroll through and select from a number of Classic novels.

OBooko

<https://www.obooko.com/category/free-books-for-teens>

OBooko offers both current YA and Classics for download in PDF, Kindle, and ePub (website) versions. You need a valid email address to set-up a free account to access the free eBooks. Once you set up your account, you will have a choice of file formats to download the book. If you are reading it as a web file (ePub), you should mark it as a favorite for easy access to return to it in the future.

Grade 8 Book Project - Summer Assignment

Directions for Book #1 (student choice novel) **Book Project:** write an essay based on the novel you read by following the directions below. This essay will be collected the first week of the new school year and will count for a grade.

WRITING SITUATION: Think about your reading experience over the summer with the choice novel (Book #1); think about all of the literary elements you have learned about in 6th and 7th grade; reflect on how various literary elements appear in the book and how these elements work together to create an enjoyable story.

WRITING PROMPT: Write a 5-paragraph essay to explain how the literary elements in the summer reading choice novel made it enjoyable to read.

1st ¶ General introduction: introduce your book with general information including title, author, genre, 2-3 interesting facts from/about the novel, moving smoothly from general to specific. Thesis statement: list three elements (for example, setting, characterization, plot, language, sensory detail, theme, point of view) that made this novel enjoyable.

2nd ¶ first element: introduce, describe its appearance or place in the novel, provide 2-3 pieces of text evidence to illustrate your point, and explain the connection between each piece of evidence and the point you're making. Sum up how it made the novel enjoyable.

3rd ¶ second element: introduce, describe its appearance or place in the novel, provide 2-3 pieces of text evidence to illustrate your point, and explain the connection between each piece of evidence and the point you're making. Sum up how it made the novel enjoyable.

4th ¶ third element: introduce, describe its appearance or place in the novel, provide 2-3 pieces of text evidence to illustrate your point, and explain the connection between each piece of evidence and the point you're making. Sum up how it made the novel enjoyable.

5th ¶ Conclusion: restate the three points you made and how all three worked together to make the novel enjoyable. Finish with your personal reaction to the novel.

Requirements: Typed, GoogleDoc, 12-point font, double space, correct spelling and mechanics.

Grading: The essay will be evaluated on how sharply you focus on the topic and purpose, how well you organize and communicate your ideas, how clearly you illustrate your points with evidence from the text, and how thoroughly you explain and elaborate on your points and examples.