



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Summer reading – 8th Grade 2017

All titles are currently available on [Barnes and Noble.com.](#), [Borders.com](#), and [Amazon.com](#).

Mandatory Book - To be read by all students. Expect a writing assessment in the first week of school on this book.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

“Written over forty years ago, S. E. Hinton’s classic story of the struggle between the Socs and the Greasers remains as powerful today as it was the day it was written, and it is taught in schools nationwide. Now available in a great new package with an improved trim size, a stunning new cover, and bonus material. Designed with classroom use in mind, the new edition will maintain the same pagination as the previous edition.”
- Teen Reads

Choice Book - Select one of the following. Expect to complete a substantial writing project assessment during the first two weeks of school. Please research your choice carefully for your interest and appropriateness. Some books may contain scenes or themes which individual readers may find sensitive. Please feel free to contact Mr. Luebbers if you would like help making your choice.

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

A teenage girl runs from her troubled home in rural Kentucky, creates a new life for herself and forms a funny quirky new family in her adopted city in the southwest.

“Taylor Greer has serious intentions --- and they definitely do not include being "hogtied to a future as a tobacco farmer's wife" in Pittman County, Kentucky. As soon as she's able, she packs up and heads west looking for adventure. It finds her in the form of an Indian baby abandoned in the backseat of her '55 Volkswagen. Never one to shirk responsibility, Taylor makes the necessary adjustments (i.e. now she spends the night in hotels instead of her car) and continues westward. What follows is Taylor's hilarious and touching tale of instant motherhood and the friends she makes along the way.”

– Teen Reads

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

A classic story of individual resistance against a corrupt authority. A young student in a struggling but traditional boy’s school encounters a secret society and must single-handedly try to hold on to his ethics and honor. Root for the underdog in this one!

“Watching someone take a stand is easy; doing it yourself can be absolutely terrifying. That's what Jerry Renault learns when he refuses to participate in his school's annual candy drive and incurs the wrath of the ruling clique of students ---- a wrath egged on by the school's administration. The ending --- which takes place in a boxing ring --- is brutal, frightening, and completely mesmerizing.”

- Teen Reads

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

“Sue Monk Kidd's ravishing debut novel has stolen the hearts of reviewers and readers alike with its strong, assured voice. Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the town's fiercest racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household. This is a remarkable story about divine female power and the transforming power of love--a story that women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.” - Teen Reads

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

“In the alternate society presented in this science fiction classic, firemen start fires. Fireman Guy Montag loves to rush to a fire and watch books burn up, a mandate of the government. Then he meets a seventeen-year old girl who tells him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who tells him of a future where people can think. And Guy Montag knows what he has to do ...” - Teen Reads

Monster by Walter Dean Myers

“Welcome to the world of Steve Harmon. He's sixteen years old and on trial for murder. Did he serve as a lookout in a drugstore robbery in which the owner was killed? Or was he just in the wrong place at the wrong time? To distance himself from the seriousness of his situation, Steve, a budding filmmaker, turns his story into a film --- starring, produced and directed by Steve himself. Interspersing day-to-day courtroom drama with entries from his journals, he effectively relates and explores the tension of the courtroom, the gut-wrenching terror of prison, the very real threat of being beaten and sexually assaulted, and the events that lead to his current predicament. Will Steve be acquitted? Is he the "monster" the prosecutor has portrayed him as? You be the judge.” - Teen Reads

History Book – This is also a mandatory book which will be read by all students open our classroom study in both History and English class:

Animal Farm by George Orwell

“This is a classic tale of humanity awash in totalitarianism. A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. First published during the epoch of Stalinist Russia, today it is clear that wherever and whenever freedom is attacked, and under whatever banner, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of Orwell's masterpiece is a message still ferociously fresh.”