



8th Grade Summer Reading Book List and Assignment

Rutherford Public Schools



Title	Author	Summary
<i>Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	Alexie, Sherman	Junior, a Native American who lives in poverty on a reservation, goes to a new school in this hysterical and realistic novel. He must deal with his best friend's anger, his classmates' racism, his new basketball team, and, of course, girl problems.
<i>Chains or Forge</i>	Anderson, Laurie Halse	After being sold into slavery, Isabel puts her life in danger to spy for the rebels during the Revolutionary War, hoping to gain her freedom and save her younger sister from a mysterious new master.
<i>Dairy Queen</i> or any other <i>Dairy Queen</i> book	Murdock, Catherine Gilbert	D.J. spends her summer working on her family's dairy farm and training the rival high school's quarterback, only to discover she has feelings for him. Things get even more complicated when she decides to try out for the football team herself and they are forced to play against each other. Will their rival schools keep them from being together?
<i>Dear Julia</i>	Zemser, Amy Bronwen	All shy Elaine wants to do is be a chef like her idol Julia Child, but her mother thinks she should do more with her life than spend it in a kitchen. With help from her new (and only) friend Lucida, Elaine enters a cooking competition and shows everyone what she's really made of.
<i>Frankenstein the Graphic Novel</i> (Classical Comics, original text version)	Cobley, Jason & Mary Shelley	A graphic novel about the hysteria that ensues when Dr. Victor Frankenstein creates a monster and subsequently casts it out into a horrified community.
<i>The Hunger Games</i> or any other <i>Hunger Games</i> book	Collins, Suzanne	In this thrilling novel set in futuristic North America, Katniss Everdeen competes in the mandatory Hunger Games, a brutal, violent competition hosted by the Capitol where teens are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. Will she escape with her life?
<i>If I Stay</i>	Forman, Gayle	While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.
<i>Jane Eyre the Graphic Novel</i> (Classical Comics, original text version)	Bronte, Charlotte and Amy Corzine	Set in England in the 1800s, Jane takes a job as a nanny/tutor and develops a crush on her new boss, but can they ever be together? And what are they going to do about the mysterious fires and noises in the attic? Fun graphic novel format!
<i>The Looking Glass Wars</i> or any other <i>Looking Glass Wars</i> book	Beddor, Frank	When she is cast out of Wonderland, young Alyss Heart tries to defeat her evil Aunt Redd and regain the throne, while avoiding the numerous assassins who are determined to kill her!



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<i>Monster</i>	Myers, Walter Dean	While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.
<i>Reality Check</i>	Abrahams, Peter	After a knee injury destroys sixteen-year-old Cody's college hopes, he drops out of high school and gets a job in his small Montana town; but when his ex-girlfriend disappears from her Vermont boarding school, Cody travels cross-country to join the search.
<i>Sleeping Freshman Never Lie</i>	Lubar, David	While navigating his first year of high school and awaiting the birth of his new baby brother, Scott loses old friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.
<i>Son of the Mob</i>	Korman, Gordon	Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.
<i>Sunrise over Fallujah</i>	Myers, Walter Dean	Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.
<i>Swallowing Stones</i>	McDonald, Joyce	Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael MacKenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle and unknowingly kills the father of high school classmate Jenna Ward.
<i>The Golden Compass</i> or any other <i>His Dark Materials</i> book	Pullman, Philip	Lyra Belacqua sets out on a dangerous adventure to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.
<i>The Shakespeare Stealer</i>	Blackwood, Gary	A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.
<i>Walking Naked</i>	Brugman, Alyssa	After being in detention with a girl called "The Freak," Megan finds herself torn between the developing friendship the two share and her involvement with a popular clique.
<i>We Were Here</i>	Pena, Matt de la	After Miguel is sent to juvie for a mysterious crime, he decides to break out and head to Mexico with his new friends.
<i>When My Name was Keoko</i>	Park, Linda Sue	With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.



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Writing Assignment: A written book review will be completed in your reading class within the first week of school on a date determined by your teacher. Your reading teacher will review the process with you. The NJASK rubric will be used to grade your writing assignment. You will need to print out and complete the graphic organizer labeled “GO grades 6-8” located on this web site. Bring the graphic organizer to class the first day of school, Wednesday, September 7, 2011.