

# Rising 8th Grade Summer Work



In order to prepare for next year, ALL rising 8th grade students must read the following:

- #1 - *The Hunger Games* - This text will be used for introductory discussions of “hero's journey” in 8th grade and also to review literary elements.



- #2 - Read one book of your choice from the book list attached at the end of the packet.

Please note: Some of the books contain young adult or adult themes. Parents are highly encouraged to evaluate, approve, and even read the choices made by their children. If you have any need a recommendation for your child based on his or her reading preferences, please email Miss Annie at the following email address: [aneahring@lfno.org](mailto:aneahring@lfno.org)

- #3 - (Social Studies) For rising 8th Graders, students must complete the “timeline.” Please see the Google Classroom for four assignments all related to Reconstruction on Newsela ([newsela.com](http://newsela.com)). There are passages, quizzes and short writing assignments. (Message Miss Jinger [ [jwhiddon@lfno.org](mailto:jwhiddon@lfno.org) ] with any questions).

## **Recommended Optional Work:**

- Complete an additional book review
- Engage with the New York Times student writing prompts.

## **Required Assignment #1:** Active Reading Analysis for *The Hunger Games*

Students need to show evidence of ACTIVE READING. This includes writing in the books themselves, highlighting important passages and vocabulary words, and using sticky notes to summarize chapters and add commentary.

*Option for e-books: keep a detailed active reading journal log.*

Example of e-book journal format:

Page Range	Summary	Questions and Commentary

Upon returning to school in August, physical books (or journals) will be checked for evidence of Active Reading and other activities and assessments will be given in class surrounding *The Hunger Games*. Books are to be read and evidence of active reading is due the first day we return to school.

Note: It is not necessary for students to purchase copies of these books. Library copies with sticky notes for active reading, or journals (if accessing the text digitally) are acceptable.

## **Required Assignment #2:** Book Review and Presentation

1. Choose a novel out of the option list below. Know yourself; choose a book that is interesting to you and achievable to read in the required time frame.
2. Write a book review that is a minimum of two paragraphs (see rubric below). See an example on the back of this rubric.
3. Using either a posterboard or Google Slides, summarize your review and prepare a brief presentation for your 8th grade class.

### **Rubric:**

	<b>Points possible</b>			<b>Points earned</b>
<b>Written book review includes:</b>				
1. Engaging opener	3	2	1	-----
2. Details about character, setting, plot without revealing the conclusion of the book	3	2	1	-----
3. Discuss a major theme that can be derived from the book and use textual evidence from the story to back it up.	3	2	1	-----
4. Features correct, grammar, spelling, and punctuation	3	2	1	-----
5. Book review offers at least one opinion or recommendation.	3	2	1	-----

### **Recommended Optional Assignments:**

1. Complete and additional book review for up to 10 bonus points for your summer reading grade.  
\*Select an additional book or graphic novel to read at a middle school (+) level; the book can be fiction or nonfiction. Then, repeat step two for assignment #2.
2. Regularly check the NYT students writing prompts and keep a journal throughout the summer. New topics are posted on a nearly daily basis and prompt deep thought on relevant issues:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/learning-writing-prompts>

\*Reading List Below ↓

## Realistic Fiction

### **Benway, Robin | Far from the Tree**

Three adopted siblings, who were separated at birth and raised in different households, find each other at just the right moment.

### **Mass, Wendy | A Mango-Shaped Space**

Thirteen-year-old Mia has kept a secret since third grade. She sees colors in numbers, music and spoken words. When she fails math in eighth grade, she must seek help.

### **Van Draanen, Wendelin | The Running Dream**

Jessica, a track star, loses her leg in a car accident. All her friends turn their backs on her, except a girl with cerebral palsy named Rosa.

### **Whaley, John Corey | Highly Illogical Behavior**

Follow the unlikely friendship between overachieving Lisa, her charming boyfriend Clark, and agoraphobic Sol, who hasn't left the house in 3 years.

## Non-Fiction

### **Bartoletti, Susan Campbell | They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: the Birth of an American Terrorist Group**

Documents the origin of the Ku Klux Klan, providing personal accounts, congressional documents, diaries and more.

### **Brown, Don | Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the city of New Orleans was changed forever. This thoroughly researched graphic novel tells the story of the fateful storm and subsequent flooding of the city.

### **Spiegelman, Art | Maus I: A Survivor's Tale**

A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself.

### **St. John, Warren | Outcasts United (Adapted for Young People)**

Chronicles the story of a soccer program for boys from refugee families, called the Fugees, who have been resettled in Georgia.

## Historical Fiction

### **Austen, Jane | Emma**

Emma devotes her formidable energies to matchmaking between friends and acquaintances in the village of Highbury.

### **Bruchac, Joseph | Code Talker**

Sixteen-year-old Ned lies about his age, joins the Marines, and becomes a code talker. With his secret Navajo language, he helps end the war against Japan.

### **Mills, Wendy | All We Have Left**

A haunting and heart-wrenching story of two girls, two time periods, and the one event that changes their lives - and the world - forever.

### **Sepetys, Ruta | Salt to the Sea**

As WWII draws to a close in East Prussia, the paths of three refugees - Joana, Emilia, and Florian - converge on the way to the ship that will carry them to safety. But just when it seems that freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes.

## Fantasy & Science-Fiction

### **Adams, Douglas | The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**

Seconds before Earth is demolished, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together, this dynamic pair begin a journey through space aided by quotes from *The Hitchhiker's Guide*.

### **Card, Orson Scott | Ender's Game**

In order to develop a secure defense against the next alien attack, government agencies train child geniuses as soldiers.

### **Dashner, James | The Eye of Minds**

Michael is a skilled internet gamer in a world of advanced technology. When a cyber-terrorist begins to threaten players, Michael is called upon to seek him out.

### **Westerfeld, Scott | Uglies**

Post-apocalypse, the world has been reshaped and there's a new caste system. Tally is finally about to turn 16 and "pretty," but when her friend Shay disappears, this future is threatened.

## Mystery & Adventure Fiction

### **Aslan, Austin | The Islands at the End of the World**

Global disaster leaves Hawaii cut off from the rest of the world. Sixteen-year-old Leilani and her father must make a dangerous journey across islands to reach their family.

### **Budhos, Marina | Watched**

Naeem knows that being Muslim in American means being watched. But he thinks he can charm his way through anything, until his mistakes catch up with him and the cops offer a dark deal.

### **Johnson, Maureen | The Name of the Star**

Rory, from Louisiana, is new at her London boarding school when murders take place that mimic those of Jack the Ripper.

### **Ruby, Laura | Bone Gap**

Finn is sure that Roza didn't just disappear. But nobody in Bone Gap believes him - not even his brother Sean, who has more reason than anyone to want to know what happened.