

English Summer Reading, 2017

Students Entering Grade 8 English

Glen Rock Middle School

Mrs. Scotti, Ms. Wechtler

A LETTER TO OUR INCOMING EIGHTH GRADERS

Dear Students,

We've got great fiction books on the list; you won't want to delay reading them. We think we've found a few books that you might not have otherwise come across, so that should make for happy reading.

Please read as many of these novels over the summer as you wish, but choose one of them to complete the attached "Fiction Bookmark" with your best effort. The bookmark will be collected on the first day of school.

Later in September, we will write about your chosen novel in class.

We already know many of you from rooms D212 and 213 this year and are looking forward to getting to know you in the warmth of our classrooms... and seeing the skills you bring to English class!

Have a safe and relaxing summer, enjoy these awesome books we've compiled, and together we will conquer your high school preparatory year when we return in the fall.

Bis bald, À bientôt, Hasta Luego,
じゃあまたね,

Ms. Wechtler & Mrs. Scotti
English 8 Teachers

The Fiction Reading List for English 8

Johnny Tremain

This great historical fiction enables you to envision daily life in the tumultuous days just before the American Revolution. It's a crucial time in Johnny's life as he makes decisions for his future. A Newbery Award winner!

Esther Forbes

Charles and Emma

An unusual novel, based on Charles Darwin's and his family's journals, letters, etc, it is a biography in novel format. It is a "real" love story in spite of the ideological differences between Mr. and Mrs. Darwin.

Deborah Heiligmann

The Man Who Would Be Poe

Set during the writer's actual lifetime, specifically during the winter of 1848, Edgar Allan Poe is one of this novel's major characters. In the genre of the detective story, a young boy named Edmund Brimmer returns to his hotel room one night to find his sister has mysteriously vanished from the locked room. Students like this book!

Avi

All the Broken Pieces

Written in free verse, this is the story of an adopted Vietnamese boy in first-person as the boy tries to assimilate with his new family and environment while at the same time holding onto his Vietnamese heritage which includes a secret. There are great descriptions of pitching as he becomes a skilled pitcher on the school team.

Ann E. Berg

Devil's Arithmetic

This historical fiction/ fantasy novels follows a Jewish girl as she lives in a Nazi concentration camp. She is living in modern day America, yet at her family's Passover Seder, when she opens her apartment door, she is transported to Poland during the height of the Nazi occupation in 1942 where she becomes Chaya. Great sensory imagery!

Jane Yolen

Projekt 1065

Michael lives in Nazi Germany and like the other boys, he is a member of the Hitler Youth. But Michael has a secret. He and his parents are spies. When he learns about Projekt 1065, a secret Nazi war mission, things get even more complicated as he must prove his loyalty to the Hitler Youth. Pulse-pounding.

Alan Gratz

This Dark Endeavor, or the later 2 in the trilogy ***Kenneth Oppel***

Written as the prequel to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Oppel explores the often blurry line between science and magic. The characters are children in this novel, searching for ingredients for an "elixir of life". Intense, gory, exciting. Very well-researched.

The Human Comedy

An American classic and a coming of age novel about a teenage boy, this novel takes place in California during WW2. Homer works as a telegraph messenger who delivers varied types of wartime messages, creating a rich, poignant novel. Mature readers will get a lot out of the themes in this novel though it's not a "tough" read.

William Saroyan

The Odyssey

An authentic & sophisticated verse translation of Homer's *Odyssey*, for readers who enjoy a challenge. It is the full-text—great for those who loved the 7th grade Ulysses novel & wish to go deeper. It is reader-friendly!

translated by Robert Fagles

Ties That Bind, Ties That Break

Ailin has watched her two older sisters go through the painful process of having their feet bound. As Ailin enters adolescence, she finds that her family is no longer willing to support her. Chinese society leaves few options for single women, but Ailin is determined to forge her own destiny, defying traditions of upper class Chinese society.

Lensey Namioka

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam

A very accessible middle-school level novel, it is a dog-lover's story about a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. Rick is a soldier headed to Vietnam to prove to his family and his sergeant that he is cut out for war.

Cynthia Kadohata

The Recruit, or any book from the Cherub Series ***Robert Muchamore***

The first of the enormously loved series...James is the latest CHERUB recruit. He's a bit of a troublemaker, but he's also brilliant. And CHERUB agents—all under age seventeen-- need him on missions to spy on terrorists, hack into crucial documents, and gather intel on global threats, etc. It is an exceptionally dangerous job, but these agents have one crucial advantage: adults never suspect that teens are spying on them.