

Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2007

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

REALISTIC

Bauer, Joan - *Hope Was Here*. When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Bloor, Edward - *Tangerine*. Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

Deuker, Carl - *Night Hoops*. While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Hinton, S.E. - *That Was Then, This Is Now*. Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.

Myers, Walter Dean - *Autobiography of My Dead Brother*. After the death of a close friend, Jesse pours his heart and soul into his sketchbook to make sense of life in his troubled Harlem neighborhood.

Na, An - *A Step from Heaven*. A young Korean girl and her family find it hard to adjust to life in America.

Philbrick, Rodman - *Freak the Mighty*. Max, a large eighth-grader with a learning disability, becomes friends with Freak, an intelligent boy who is physically impaired.

HUMOR & POETRY

Bateman, Colin - *Running with the Reservoir Pups*. Eddie gets mixed up with the Reservoir Pups, the scrappy gang of boys that rules the streets in his new town. Breaking into the hospital his mom works at for his initiation, Eddie stumbles upon some twisted baby-snatchers.

Hesse, Karen - *Out of the Dust*. In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Great Depression.

Sones, Sonya - *What My Mother Doesn't Know*. Through poetry, Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

HISTORICAL

Anderson, Laurie Halse - *Fever 1793*. In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Mathilda Cook is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Moses, Shelia - *The Legend of Buddy Bush*. In 1947, twelve-year-old Pattie Mae is sustained by her dreams of escaping Rich Square, North Carolina, and moving to Harlem when her Uncle Buddy is under arrest for attempted rape of a white woman and her grandfather is diagnosed with a terminal brain tumor.

Otsuka, Julie - *When the Emperor Was Divine*. The five members of a Japanese American family present their unique perspectives on the experience of being forced into an internment camp during World War II.

Rinaldi, Ann - *The Girl in Blue*. To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, fourteen-year-old Sarah, dressed as a boy, enlists in the Union Army and becomes a soldier as well as a Union spy.

Sherlock, Patti - *Letters from Wolfie*. Certain that he is doing the right thing by donating his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program in Vietnam, thirteen-year-old Mark begins to have second thoughts when the Army refuses to say when and if Wolfie will ever return.

MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

Du Maurier, Daphne - *Rebecca*. For months after her death, the memory of Rebecca de Winter continues to dominate everyone at her former home, Manderley, a famous English country house.

Horowitz, Anthony - *Eagle Strike*. Teenage spy Alex Rider investigates international pop star and philanthropist Damian Cray whose new video game venture hides sinister motives involving Air Force One, nuclear missiles, and the international drug trade.

Mikaelsen, Ben - *Touching Spirit Bear*. Fifteen-year-old Cole, trying to avoid prison, is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.

CLASSIC

Austen, Jane - *Emma*. Emma devotes her formidable energies to matchmaking between friends and acquaintances in the village of Highbury. The plot turns on a romance of which she is wholly unaware.

Smith, Betty - *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. The tale of a little girl living in the slums of Brooklyn, who dreamily watches out her window as a tree struggles to reach the sky.

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

Adams, Douglas - *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*. Facing annihilation at the hands of the warlike Vogons, cosmically displaced Arthur Dent and his curious comrades-in-arms hurtle through space powered by pure improbability - and desperately in search of a place to eat.

Card, Orson Scott - *Ender's Game*. In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers.

Crichton, Michael - *Sphere*. A thousand feet below the South Pacific, a huge vessel rests - a spaceship apparently undamaged from its fall.

Farmer, Nancy - *The House of the Scorpion*. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Klause, Annette - *Silver Kiss*. A mysterious teenage boy harboring a dark secret helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's terminal illness.

Pullman, Philip - *The Golden Compass*. Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Abeel, Samantha - *My Thirteenth Winter*. A memoir in which the author discusses her life before and after being diagnosed with the math-related learning disability *discalculia* in seventh grade.

Jimenez, Francisco - *Breaking Through*. Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education.

Müller, Melissa - *Anne Frank: The Biography*. Chronicles the life of Anne Frank and discusses her childhood, the time she spent hidden in the annex, who betrayed the people living in the annex, the experiences she and her family had in the concentration camps, and other related topics

Spiegelman, Art - *Maus I*. 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.