

# Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

In collaboration with Santa Monica Public Library, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is pleased to announce our summer reading program prepared by our school librarians.

Because students' maturity and reading levels vary, we encourage parents to participate actively in selecting and/or discussing these titles.

**Students are required to read two (2) books from the list for the grade they are entering in the fall. Students are responsible for obtaining their own books. The public libraries, as well as local booksellers, carry most of these titles.**

We are very excited about this program and hope the books listed will provide knowledge and pleasure for your child. Have a fantastic summer filled with reading and adventure!

Sincerely, your librarians,

*Sarah Ryan*, Malibu High School  
*Amy Di Dario*, Lincoln Middle School  
*Andrea Jarvis*, John Adams Middle School

Students must read two (2) books from the 2019 Summer Reading List. When you return in August, you will be assigned a project by your English teacher. To prepare for your in-class assignment, consider taking notes on each book including:

## Book Information

\*Title/Author

\*Genre

\*Fiction or Nonfiction

## Main Character(s)

\*Name(s)

\*Age(s)

\*Traits

## Summarize the plot.

## Rate the book on a scale of 1 to 5.

\*1 = I did not like it

\*5= It was fantastic!

## 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.