

# Expeditionary Learning Middle School

## Summer Reading for Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

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*“When we read a story, we inhabit it. The covers of the book are like a roof and four walls. What is to happen next will take place within the four walls of the story. And this is possible because the story's voice makes everything its own.”*

- John Berger

Dear Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents/Guardians,

The Expeditionary Learning Middle School 8th grade teachers wish you all a wonderful summer break. In an effort to provide you summer reading that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests.

Here at ELMS, we push our students to strive for high achievement and to set new goals for themselves often. One goal is to be college and career ready; therefore, we ask that when choosing summer reading books, students challenge themselves by selecting books that are both high interest and at grade level. We encourage students to read aloud to their parents and have parents read aloud to students as well. Be sure to share thoughts and reactions to the reading with others. Great literature should be discussed and shared!

We challenge each student to read a minimum of **two books** this summer. Of course, we encourage all students to continue to read on a regular basis and to discover new authors and books to enjoy over your summer break! For **two** of the books read, please complete a novel outline (attached). In September, your new ELA teacher will be collecting these outlines for extra credit and prizes.

Have a great summer and enjoy this opportunity to read great books! We look forward to discussing your selections with you in September.

Sincerely,

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

## **8th Grade Summer Reading List**

- Alexander, Lloyd. The Black Cauldron (or any in series)  
In the imaginary land of Prydain, Prince Gwydion faces danger.
- Appelt, Kathy. The Underneath (Newberry Honor Book)  
An old hound, that has been chained up at his hateful owner's rundown cabin, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger and cruelty in their struggle to survive.
- Avi. Crispin: The Cross of Lead  
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in 14th century England flees his village and joins a traveling juggler who holds a dangerous secret.
- Blackwood, Gary. The Year of the Hangman  
Imagine what would have happened if the Americans had lost the Revolutionary War...
- \*Bradbury, Ray. The Martian Chronicles  
Some of the scariest and most imaginative science-fiction stories ever, by the master science-fiction writer himself.
- \*Bronte, Charlotte. Jane Eyre  
Young Jane Eyre was orphaned and sent to live with her uncle, who dies shortly after her arrival. Her step-aunt despises her and sends her to Lowood School so that she can become a governess.
- Brewer, Heather. Eighth Grade Bites: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod (or any in series)  
Junior high really sucks for thirteen-year-old Vladimir Tod. Bullies harass him, the principal is dogging him, and the girl he likes prefers his best friend. Oh, and Vlad has a secret: his mother was human, but his father was a vampire.
- Cabot, Meg. The Princess Diaries (or any in series)  
Mia Thermopolis is your average urban ninth grader. Mia still puts on her Doc Martens one at a time, and the most exciting things she ever dreams about are smacking lips with sexy senior Josh Richter and passing Algebra I. Then Mia's dad comes to town and drops a major bomb...
- Card. Orson Scott. Ender's Game (or any in series)  
The Earth is under attack and the survival of the human species depends on a military genius who can defeat the alien "buggers". Recruited for military training, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin's childhood ends the moment he enters his new home: Battle School.
- Clancy, Tom. Splinter Cell (or Splinter Cell: Operation Barracuda)  
Tom Clancy fans will love this action-packed spy thriller.

Collins, Suzanne. The Hunger Games (or any by author)

Sixteen-year-old Katniss is smart, athletic, and fast. She can take down a rabbit with a bow and arrow, hitting it straight through the eye. Will these skills be enough to survive the Hunger Games?

Collier, James Lincoln. Jump Ship to Freedom

In 1787, a fourteen-year-old slave, anxious to buy freedom for himself and his mother, escapes from his dishonest master and tries to find help in cashing the soldier's notes received by his father in fighting for the Revolution.

Cormier, Robert. In the Middle of the Night (or any by author)

Sixteen-year-old Denny lives in the shadow of a deadly accident with which his father was connected when he was Denny's age, a disaster for which some of the survivors still blame his father.

Crutcher, Chris. Ironman (or any by author)

Brewster has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. Following angry outbursts at his football coach and English teacher that have cost him his spot on the football team and moved him dangerously close to expulsion from school, he turns to the only adult he believes will listen: Larry King.

Dawson, George and Richard Glaubman. Life is So Good

George Dawson, a 103-year-old slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98, reflects on his life and offers valuable lessons in living and a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century.

Dessen, Sarah. The Truth About Forever

The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.

Deuker, Carl. Night Hoops (or any by author)

one of only three sophomores to make varsity basketball, Nick struggles with becoming a team player.

Donnelly, Jennifer. A Northern Light

Set in 1906 against the backdrop of a notorious murder, this astonishing novel weaves romance, history, and a murder mystery into something moving, real, and wholly original.

\*Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. The Hound of the Baskervilles

ghost hound has haunted the Baskerville family since the evil Hugo Baskerville was murdered by it. The locals say it is the devil himself. The case is brought before Sherlock Holmes when the new owner of the ancestral estate is afraid for his life.

Flanagan, John. Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan (or any in series)

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by Battle School, he becomes the

reluctant apprentice to mysterious Ranger Halt and must protect the kingdom from danger.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Found

Jonah, Chip, and Katherine are plunged into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, and airplane that appeared out of nowhere – and people who seem to appear and disappear at will.

Higson, Charlie. Double or Die (or any in series)

Kidnapping. Explosions. Murder. This is no ordinary weekend. But then, James Bond is no ordinary boy.. The third installment is the most marvelously complex in the Young Bond series.

Hesse, Karen. Letters from Rifka

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium while the others immigrate to America.

Horowitz, Anthony. Stormbreaker (or any in series)

Nothing can prepare fourteen-year-old Alex for the news that his uncle was really a spy for Britain's top-secret intelligence agency. Recruited to find his uncle's killers and complete his final mission, Alex suddenly finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

Korman, Gordon. Swindle

After a collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card.

\*London, Jack. White Fang

The story of a wolf born in the frozen-hearted Northland wild, and how he became known as "the Blessed Wolf."

Lowry, Lois. A Summer to Die (or any by author)

Thirteen-year-old Meg envies her sister's beauty and popularity. Her feelings don't make it any easier for her to cope with Molly's strange illness and eventual death.

McDaniel, Lurlene. Somewhere Between Life and Death (or any by author)

Their lives come crashing down when Amy gets in a horrible car accident. Erin and her family pray for Amy to awaken from her coma.

Meyer, Stephenie. Twilight (or any in series)

In this suspenseful tale, 17-year-old Isabella moves to a small town in Washington State and gets more excitement than she bargained for when she falls for an enigmatic classmate—who happens to be a vampire.

- Myers, Walter Dean. Sunrise Over Fallujah (or any by author)  
Operation Iraqi Freedom, that's the code name. But the young men and women in the military's Civil Affairs Battalion have a simpler name for it: WAR.
- Nix, Garth. Sabriel (or read one of Nix's novels in the Mister Monday series)  
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.
- Novik, Naomi. His Majesty's Dragon  
Aerial combat brings a thrilling new dimension to the Napoleonic Wars as valiant warriors rise to Britain's defense by taking to the skies...not aboard aircraft but atop the mighty backs of fighting dragons.
- Paolini, Christopher. Eragon (Eldest or Brisingr)  
In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
- Patterson, James. Max (or any in series)  
Max and the Flock are confronted by the most frightening catastrophe yet. Millions of fish are dying off the coast of Hawaii and someone-or something- is destroying hundreds of ships.
- Pullman, Philip. The Golden Compass  
Lyra sets out to save her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subjects of gruesome experiments in the Far North.
- \*Smith, Betty. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn  
Francie Nolan and her family lived in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn from 1902 until 1919...primarily this is the story of Francie, her resourcefulness and her wisdom, as she grows up.
- Smith, Roland. Peak (or any by author)  
The emotional, tension-filled story of a fourteen-year-old boy's attempt to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.
- Spinelli, Jerry. Smiles to Go  
What is stargazer, skateboarder, chess champ, pepperoni pizza eater, big brother, sister hater, best friend, first kisser, science geek, control freak Will Tuppence so afraid of in this great big universe?
- Stewart, Trenton Lee. The Mysterious Benedict Society (first in series)  
After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected to go on a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Weaver, Will. Farm Team

With his father in jail and his mother working full-time, fourteen-year-old Billy Baggs finds himself in charge of running the family farm in northern Minnesota and having to give up the thing he loves most—baseball.

Westerfeld, Scott. Uglies (or any by author)

In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellant ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty. But Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk her life on the outside.

Woodson, Jacqueline. If You Come Softly (or any by author)

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

\* challenging text

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ELA

Incoming Grade 8

### Summer Book Choice #1

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genre:**

- Realistic fiction
- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Mystery
- Non-fiction
- Adventure
- Historical fiction
- Biography

**Choose 3 characters to describe.**

Characters:	Description:

Tell how a **character** has changed over the course of the novel:

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**Setting** (Time and place):

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**Conflict** (Describe the main character's problem):

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**Resolution** (Describe how the problem was solved):

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**Plot** (Describe the main events in the order that they occur in the story):

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Theme** (What lesson has the character learned over the course of the novel?):

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**Review:** I do/do not recommend this book because... (Support with details from the text)

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**Rate the book you read on a scale of 1 to 5.**

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<p><b>Rating</b> (Low 1-5 High)</p>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ELA

Incoming Grade 8

### Summer Book Choice #2

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genre:**

- Realistic fiction
- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Mystery
- Non-fiction
- Adventure
- Historical fiction
- Biography

**Choose 3 characters to describe.**

Characters:	Description:

Tell how a **character** has changed over the course of the novel:

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**Setting** (Time and place):

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**Conflict** (Describe the main character's problem):

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**Resolution** (Describe how the problem was solved):

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**Plot** (Describe the main events in the order that they occur in the story):

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Theme** (What lesson has the character learned over the course of the novel?):

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Review:** I do/do not recommend this book because... (Support with details from the text)

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**Rate the book you read on a scale of 1 to 5.**

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<b>Rating</b> (Low 1-5 High)

