

2020 Summer Reading for Rising 8th Graders

Dear Rising 8th Graders,

I am looking forward to starting 8th grade with you in September! Below is your Summer Reading Assignment. All assignments are due on the second Friday of the year (not orientation) in September. Email Ariel with questions at arielsacks@rencharter.org.

- **Step 1:** Read at least one book. You are encouraged to read as many as you can! (Audiobook versions of the books are allowed.) You may read from this list, or you may read something else of your choosing.
- **Step 2:** Write a **narrative**, describing your reading experience. Include a paragraph on each of the following questions:
 1. Why did you choose this book?
 2. What did you expect to happen (or to learn) as you began reading? Why?
 3. What confused or surprised you as you continued reading? Why? (If nothing surprised you, explain why the book was so predictable.)
 4. Upon finishing the book, what message or lesson do you think the writer was trying to teach readers?
 5. Overall, what is your opinion of the book? Why?
- **Step 3:** **Complete a creative project** from the attached list of options. You may do your project on the same book as your narrative, or you could do it on a different book. Include the title and author of the book in the project.

Happy Reading!



8th Grade Summer Reading Project Choices (Assignment 3)

Book Project Options:

- i. Collage: Create a collage from magazine and newspaper images and words that reflects the major characters and plot events from your book. Your collage must be accompanied by a 1 page explanation of the images you included.
- ii. Alternate Ending: Extend your book's ending by tagging on an extra chapter! Or, if you found the ending disappointing, rewrite it the way you think should have happened. Your new chapter must be at least 1.5 pages.
- iii. Letter: Write a letter to one of the characters in the book. You can give advice about the character's conflict, praise for what the character has done, or support for what the character needs. This letter must be at least 1 page.
- vi. Reflection: Complete each of the following six sentence stems with a 1 paragraph response for each statement. **This book made me:** 1) realize that... 2) decide that... 3) wonder about... 4) connect to... 5) feel that... and 6) hope that...
- viii. Childhood Invention: Create a back-story of your protagonist's childhood in a 1 page paper. If your main character is an adult, try to figure out what s/he would have been like as a child. Make the connection between choices your protagonist made in the book and what his/her childhood was like.
- ix. Talk Show Interview: Design a fake Q&A (question and answer) between your character and a talk show host. Make the talk show host ask some difficult questions, and have your character answer honestly!
- x. Original Art: Develop and create your own original art project based on your novel. Color, photography, and/or computer graphics may be used. You must include a 1 page written explanation of your project, why you chose to represent this plot event or character, and its relationship to the novel.

(—> turn over for non fiction project choices)

Reading Suggestions

You may choose something else if you want. Completing *House of the Scorpion* is an option.

—FICTION—



ONE

by Sarah Crossan (2015, Greenwillow Books).

Grace and Tippi are conjoined twins, joined at the waist, defying the odds of survival for sixteen years. They share everything, and they are everything to each other. They would never imagine being apart. For them, that would be the real tragedy. But something is happening to them. Something they hoped would never happen. And Grace doesn't want to admit it. Not even to Tippi.



ORBITING JUPITER

by Gary Schmidt (2015, Clarion Books).

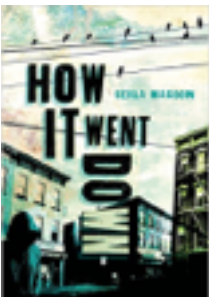
Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen. When Joseph has begun to believe he'll have a future, he is confronted by demons from his past that force a tragic sacrifice.



THE STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL SORROWS OF AVA LAVENDER

By Leslye Walton

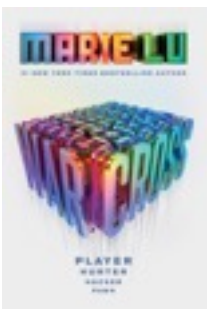
Magical realism, lyrical prose, and the pain and passion of human love haunt this hypnotic generational saga. Foolish love appears to be the Roux family tradition, an ominous forecast for its youngest, Ava Lavender. Ava—in all other ways a normal girl—is born with the wings of a bird. In a quest to understand her peculiar disposition and a growing desire to fit in with her peers, sixteen-year old Ava ventures into the wider world, ill-prepared for what she might discover and naïve to the twisted motives of others.



THIS IS HOW IT WENT DOWN

By Kekla Magoon

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson dies from two gunshot wounds, his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up. Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth. Tariq's friends, family, and community struggle to make sense of the tragedy, and to cope with the hole left behind when a life is cut short. In their own words, they grapple for a way to say with certainty: This is how it went down.



War Cross By Marie Lu

For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game—it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a



competitive one, and survival has not been easy. To make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

BOOKED

By Kwame Alexander

In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *THE CROSSOVER*, soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and

sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.



READY PLAYER ONE

By Ernest Cline

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines—puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and that promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them.

But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win—and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape.



THE NIGHT DIARY

By Veera Hiranandani

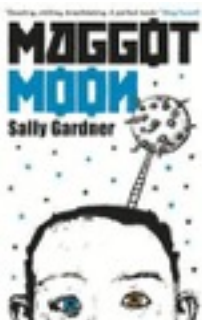
Nisha writes to her Muslim mother, who died giving birth to her and her twin brother, Amil, in a diary she receives on their 12th birthday. Through her diary entries, Nisha documents the changes brought about by India's independence from the British. Nisha and Amil live with their Hindu father, paternal grandmother, and the family's Muslim chef, Kazi, and they must flee their city after independence.



MY NAME IS NOT EASY

By Debby Dahl Edwardson

Luke knows his Iñupiaq name is full of sounds white people can't say. So he leaves it behind when he and his brothers are sent to boarding school hundreds of miles away from their Arctic village. At Sacred Heart School, students—Eskimo, Indian, White—line up on different sides of the cafeteria like there's some kind of war going on. Here, speaking Iñupiaq—or any native language—is forbidden. And Father Mullen, whose fury is like a force of nature, is ready to slap down those who disobey. Luke struggles to survive at Sacred Heart. But he's not the only one.



MAGGOT MOON

By Sally Gardner

Set in a ruthless regime, an unlikely teenager risks all to expose the truth about a heralded moon landing. What if the football hadn't gone over the wall. On the other side of the wall there is a dark secret. And the devil. And the Moon Man. And the Motherland doesn't want

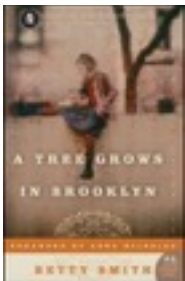
anyone to know. But Standish Treadwell — who has different-colored eyes, who can't read, can't write, Standish Treadwell isn't bright — sees things differently than the rest of the "train-track thinkers." So when Standish and his only friend and neighbor, Hector, make their way to the other side of the wall, they see what the Motherland has been hiding. And it's big...



YAQUI DELGADO WANTS TO KICK YOUR ASS

By Meg Medina

One morning before school, some girl tells Piddy Sanchez that Yaqui Delgado hates her and wants to kick her ass. Piddy doesn't even know who Yaqui is, never mind what she's done to piss her off. Word is that Yaqui thinks Piddy is stuck-up, shakes her stuff when she walks, and isn't Latin enough with her white skin, good grades, and no accent. And Yaqui isn't kidding around, so Piddy better watch her back. At first Piddy is more concerned with trying to find out more about the father she's never met and how to balance honors courses with her weekend job at the neighborhood hair salon. But as the harassment escalates, avoiding Yaqui and her gang starts to take over Piddy's life. Is there any way for Piddy to survive without closing herself off or running away?



A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN By Betty Smith

The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years.



ELEANOR AND PARK

By Rainbow Rowell

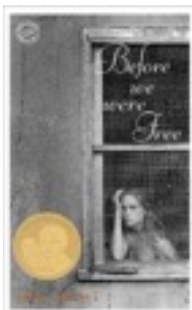
This is a story of first love, which very slowly builds from the first day Eleanor sits next to Park on the school bus. First they ignore each other, and then they slowly become friends through their love of comic books and 1980s alternative music. Park is the only good thing in Eleanor's life. Her home life is a miserable exercise in trying to stay out of her abusive stepfather's way, and finding new ways to wear the same clothes repeatedly since there is no money for anything extra. Park adores everything about Eleanor, and she finds refuge at his house after school with his understanding parents. Things finally explode and their relationship is truly tested.



FAR FAR AWAY

By Tom McNeal

Jeremy Johnson Johnson hears voices. Or, specifically, one voice: the ghost of Jacob Grimm, one half of The Brothers Grimm. Jacob watches over Jeremy, protecting him from an unknown dark evil whispered about in the space between this world and the next. But Jacob can't protect Jeremy from everything. When coltish, copper-haired Ginger Boultinghouse takes a bite of a cake so delicious it's rumored to be bewitched, she falls in love with the first person she sees: Jeremy. In any other place, this would be a turn for the better for Jeremy, but not in Never Better, where the Finder of Occasions—whose identity and evil intentions nobody knows—is watching and waiting, waiting and watching...



Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez

Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government's secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition of el

Trujillo's dictatorship. Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind

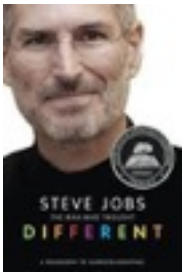
NON FICTION:



HELLO CRUEL WORLD: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws

By Kate Bornstein

Bornstein bravely and wittily shares personal and unorthodox methods of survival in an often cruel world. A one-of-a-kind guide to staying alive outside the box, Hello, Cruel World is a much-needed unconventional approach to life for those who want to stay on the edge, but alive. Designed to encourage readers to give themselves permission to unleash their hearts' harmless desires, the book has only one directive: "Don't be mean." It is this guiding principle that brings its reader on a self-validating journey, which forges wholly new paths toward a resounding decision to choose life.



STEVE JOBS: The Man Who Thought Different

By Karen Blumenthal

Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack. Then came the core and hallmark of his genius--his exacting moderation for perfection, his counterculture life approach, and his level of taste and style that pushed all boundaries. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched.



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BARBIE: A Doll's History and Her Impact on the U.S. By Tanya Lee Stone

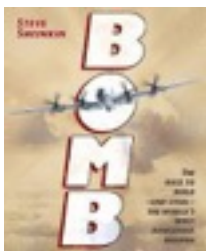
During her unparalleled fifty-year history, Barbie has been the doll that some people love-and some people love to hate. There's no question she's influenced generations, but how? Tanya Lee Stone takes an unbiased look at how Barbie became the icon that she is, and at the impact that she's had on our culture (and vice versa). Featuring passionate anecdotes and memories from a range of girls and women and original color photographs, this book explores the Barbie phenomenon in a brand-new light.



THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE: A MEMOIR

By Staceyann Chin

No one knew Staceyann's mother was pregnant until a dangerously small baby was born on the floor of her grandmother's house in Jamaica, on Christmas Day. Staceyann's mother did not want her, and her father was not present. No one, except her grandmother, thought Staceyann would survive. Today, she is an acclaimed poet, performer, and activist. Read her gripping memoir to learn more.

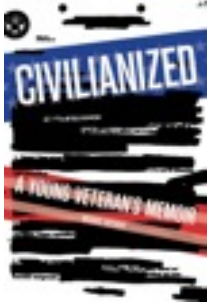


BOMB!:

The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon

By Steve Sheinkin

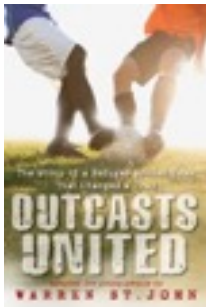
In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.



Civilianized: A Young Veteran's Memoir

By Michael Anthony

After twelve months of military service in Iraq, Michael Anthony stepped off a plane, seemingly happy to be home—or at least back on US soil. He was twenty-one years old, a bit of a nerd, and carrying a pack of cigarettes that he thought would be his last. Two weeks later, Michael was stoned on Vicodin, drinking way too much, and picking a fight with a very large Hell's Angel. At his wit's end, he came to an agreement with himself: If things didn't improve in three months, he was going to kill himself. *Civilianized* is a memoir chronicling Michael's search for meaning in a suddenly destabilized world.



OUTCASTS UNITED

The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town

By Warren St. John

This is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical southern town until it became a refugee resettlement center. The author explores how the community changed with the influx of refugees and how the dedication of Luma Mufleh and the entire Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community.

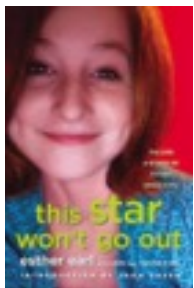


ALL HEART:

My Dedication & Determination To Become One of Soccer's Best

By Carli Lloyd & Wayne Cofey

In the summer of 2015, the U.S. women's national soccer team won the World Cup behind an epic performance by Carli Lloyd. Carli, a midfielder, scored three goals in the first sixteen minutes—the greatest goal-scoring effort in the history of World Cup finals. But there was a time when Carli almost quit soccer. She struggled with doubts and low confidence. In *All Heart*, Carli tells the full inspiring story of her journey to the top of the soccer world—an honest, action-packed account that takes readers inside the mind of a hardworking athlete.



THIS STAR WON'T GO OUT:

The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl

By Esther Earl

In full color and illustrated with art and photographs, this is a collection of the journals, fiction, letters, and sketches of the late Esther Grace Earl, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 16. Essays by family and friends help to tell Esther's story along with an introduction by award-winning author John Green who dedicated his #1 bestselling novel *The Fault in Our Stars* to her.



AMAZING, FANTASTIC, INCREDIBLE

By Stan Lee; Illustrated by Colleen Doran

Stan Lee is the most legendary name in the history of comic books—he has been the leading creative force behind Marvel Comics, and has brought to life some of the world's best-known heroes and most infamous villains throughout his career. Moving from his impoverished childhood in Manhattan to his early days writing comics, through his military

training films during World War II and the rise of the Marvel empire in the 1960s to the current resurgence in movies, *Amazing Fantastic Incredible* documents the life of a man and the legacy of an industry and career. (Graphic novel memoir)