

2021-2022 8th Grade Summer Reading

Please read 2 books total (this is a change from prior years, so pay attention!)

REQUIRED Reading

<p><i>The Outsiders</i> Hinton, S.E.</p>	<p>Realistic Fiction Classic novel published in 1967 about Ponyboy Curtis and his gang the Greasers, who are in constant conflict with the rival gang, the Socs (pronounced Sosh-ez). After a fight where someone dies, Ponyboy and his friend Johnny run away as they figure out how to deal with what happened, and further tragedy strikes.</p>
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CHOOSE: One non-fiction book from the list

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Allen, David - <i>Getting Things Done for Teens</i> o Fleming, Candace – <i>The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia</i> o Sheinkin, Steve – <i>Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i> o Spiegelman, Art – <i>Maus</i> o Thompson, Ben – <i>Guts and Glory: The American Civil War</i> o Wakatsuki Houston, Jeanne – <i>Farewell to Manzanar</i> o Watson, Jessica – <i>True Spirit: The True Story of a 16-Year-Old Australian Who Sailed Solo, Nonstop, and Unassisted Around the World</i>
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<p><i>Getting Things Done for Teens: Take Control of Your Life in a Distracting World</i> Allen, David; Wallace, Mark; Williams, Mike</p>	<p>Self-help Navigating school, social pressure, sports, music, and family commitments is hard, and often leads to stress and reduced productivity. This book will help readers design a "game strategy" to manage all of it with less stress, more confidence, and more independence. Based on the internationally best-selling book <i>Getting Things Done</i>.</p>
<p><i>The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia</i> (2014 Orbis Pictus Award winner) Fleming, Candace</p>	<p>Narrative non-fiction This is the gripping true story of Russia's last royal family, the Romanovs, and their tragic fall. It narrates intimate accounts of the events that brought down this family's empire, led to their brutal murder, and forever changed the face of Russia.</p>
<p><i>Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i> (Newbery Honor book) Sheinkin, Steve</p>	<p>Historical Nonfiction The shocking discovery of how to split an atom in two launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents! Spies worked their way into the scientific community. 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 true story of the atomic bomb.</p>
<p><i>Maus</i> Spiegelman, Art</p>	<p>Memoir, Graphic Novel A memoir about Vladek Spiegleman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself.</p>
<p><i>Guts and Glory: The American Civil War</i> Thompson, Ben</p>	<p>History From courageous cavalry rides deep into enemy territory to harrowing covert missions undertaken by spies and soldiers, the events of the American Civil War were filled with daring figures and amazing feats. This exhilarating overview covers the biggest battles as well as captivating lesser-known moments to entertain kids with unbelievable (and totally true) tales of one of America's most fascinating conflicts.</p>
<p><i>Farewell to Manzanar</i> Wakatsuki Houston, Jeanne</p>	<p>Narrative Non-fiction, Memoir Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston shares her experiences of living at the Manzanar internment camp during World War II and how it has influenced her life.</p>
<p><i>True Spirit: The True Story of a 16 Year Old Australian Who Sailed Solo, Nonstop, and Unassisted Around the World</i> Watson, Jessica</p>	<p>Narrative Non-fiction, Memoir On May 15, 2010, after 210 days at sea and more than 22,000 nautical miles, 16-year-old Jessica Watson sailed her 33-foot boat triumphantly back to land. She had done it. She was the youngest person to sail solo, unassisted, and nonstop around the world.</p>

This is a list of optional books recommended by the MBMS English Department teachers. This is only a list of novels we like if you want to read more than the two required books.

<p>And Then There Were None Christie, Agatha</p>	<p>Murder Mystery Ten strangers--each with a secret in their past--are summoned by an absent millionaire to Indian Island, a private island off the coast of England and begin to die one by one upon arrival.</p>
<p>Homegoing Gyasi, Yaa</p>	<p>Historical Fiction Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. Homegoing follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem.</p>
<p>Speak (1999 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature) Halse Anderson, Laurie</p>	<p>Mystery, Young Adult Melinda, a freshman in high school, calls the police on a party and becomes an outcast. As she becomes socially outcast, she stops talking anyone, and her only outlet is her art class. Through art she is able to reveal what happened at that party as she seeks a way to deal with it.</p>
<p>Out of the Dust (Newbery Medal book) Hesse, Karen</p>	<p>Historical Fiction, Poetry 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 Depression.</p>
<p>Call of the Wild London, Jack</p>	<p>Adventure, Animal Fiction A domesticated dog living at a ranch in the Santa Clara valley of California is stolen from home and sold into the brutal existence of an Alaskan sled dog. Buck is forced to adjust to, and survive, cruel treatments and fight to dominate other dogs in a harsh climate.</p>
<p>Boy's Life McCammon, Robert</p>	<p>Mystery, Coming of Age Cory and his father witness a car plunge into a lake - a desperate rescue attempt brings his father face-to-face with a terrible vision of death that will haunt him forever. As Cory struggles to understand his father's pain, he must confront the secrets that hide in the shadows of his hometown -for his father's sanity and his own life hang in the balance.</p>
<p>The Harry Potter Series Rowling, J.K.</p>	<p>Fantasy, Mystery, Coming of Age Eleven year old famous wizard, Harry Potter, is sent to wizarding school to learn magic. He ends up solving a mystery over life and death, all while the most evil of wizards, Lord Voldemort, is trying to kill him.</p>
<p>X: A Novel Shabazz, Ilyasah; Magoon, Kekla</p>	<p>Historical Fiction A novel that documents the youth of Malcolm Little, who later became Malcolm X, from his childhood to his imprisonment at the age of twenty.</p>
<p>The Skinjacker Trilogy (Book 1- Everlost) Shusterman, Neil</p>	<p>Fantasy When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, a shadow of the living world, filled with all the things and places that no longer exist; a limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.</p>