

8th Grade Florence M. Gaudineer Summer Reading 2020-2021

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason Blake is an autistic twelve-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does. Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that PhoenixBird--her name is Rebecca--could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

Believe: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand Young Readers' Edition Hardcover by Eric LeGrand and with Mike Yorkey

Believe is the profoundly moving story of Eric LeGrand, the former defensive tackle for the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights football team, who suffered a severe spinal cord injury and was left paralyzed by a crushing on-field tackle during a heated game with Army. A remarkable true account of a courageous young athlete whose unshakable faith, spirit, positive outlook, and rousing motto, "BELIEVE!" would serve as inspiration to legions of fans—and as motivation in his own quest to walk again—Eric's story has received national attention, heavily covered by ESPN and *Sports Illustrated*. It will lift the hearts of every reader.

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets

Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

The Emperor's Riddle by Kat Zhang

From acclaimed author Kat Zhang comes a “fast-paced mystery adventure” (*BCCB*) about a girl who embarks on a hunt for a long-lost treasure while on a summer trip to China. Mia Chen is on what her mother calls a Grand Adventure. She’s not sure what to make of this family trip to China, and didn’t want to leave her friends for the summer, but she’s excited about the prospect of exploring with her Aunt Lin, the only adult who truly understands her.

Ghost (Track) by Jason Reynolds

Running. That’s all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick

Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Hidden Roots by Joseph Bruchac

Eleven-year-old Sonny and his mother can't predict his father's sudden abusive rages. Jake's anger only gets worse after long days at the paper mill -- and when Uncle Louis appears. Louis seems to show up when Sonny and his mother need help most, but there is something about his quiet wisdom that only fuels Jake's rage. Through an unexpected friendship with a new school librarian, Sonny gains the strength to stand up to his father, and to finally confront his mother and uncle about a secret family heritage that may be the key to his father's self-hatred.

Hours of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar

While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move her grandfather into a home for people with dementia. At first, Carol avoids prickly Grandpa Serge. But as the summer wears on, Carol finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by the crazy stories he tells her about a healing tree, a green-glass lake, and the bees that will bring back the rain and end a hundred years of drought. As the line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible — and what it means to be true to her roots.

Lily and Duncan by Donna Gephart

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals

In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down. *Warriors Don't Cry* is, at times, a difficult but necessary reminder

of the valuable lessons we can learn from our nation's past. It is a story of courage and the bravery of a handful of young, black students who used their voices to influence change during a turbulent time.

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April 15, 2020

Dear Incoming Eighth Grade Students,

Another summer is almost within reach, and we are excited to announce the Summer Reading assignment. This summer you will be expected to read two books.

You will be required to read **one book listed in this letter**, and complete a graphic organizer based on the chosen novel prior to the first day of school. When you return to school in September, you will use the graphic organizer as pre-writing for a timed in-class writing assignment.

Additionally, you will be required to read **one independent book of your choice**. The book can be from any genre; however, the content should appeal to you, and **it cannot be a title that has been made into a movie**. For this book, you need to complete a graphic organizer prior to the first day of school that will be collected during the first week of school.

When choosing an independent novel, keep in mind that the reading level should be considered middle school or beyond. Typical Lexile levels for middle school range from 665L to 1100L. Refer to this website to determine if the book choice is appropriate for your reading level: <https://fab.lexile.com>.

If possible, it is recommended that you have access to the book from the required reading list during the first week of school.

We wish you a fantastic summer, full of relaxation, memorable experiences, and enjoyable literature.

Sincerely,
Ms. Mojka and Mrs. Friedman
8th Grade Communication Arts Teachers

Book #1: Select **one** of the following novels below. For this selection, you will complete a graphic organizer over the summer, and write an essay after you return to school in September.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Believe: The Victorious Story of Eric LeGrand (Young Readers Edition) by Eric LeGrande

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Emperor's Riddle by Kat Zhang

Ghost (Track) by Jason Reynolds

Hidden Roots by Joseph Bruchac

Hours of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

(Young Reader's Edition) by Malala Yousafzai

Lily & Duncan by Donna Gephart

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Pattillo Beals

Graphic Organizer for Book #1 (selection from required list)

Directions: The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you learn about **overcoming obstacles**. Consider how this theme is presented through character, setting, and/or plot development. Complete the prewriting chart below with textual evidence and reasoning. Be sure to include examples from the beginning, middle, and end of the novel.

Identify the main obstacle that is overcome by a character (or characters) in your book.

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Identify three quotes that depict the obstacle that is overcome.

Direct Quote & Page #	Explain how the quote relates to the theme of overcoming obstacles.
Page # _____	
Page # _____	
Page # _____	

Book #2: Select an independent book that appeals to you. It can be any genre; however, the writing should be at least at the middle school level. For this selection, you will complete a graphic organizer over the summer, and it will be due the first week of school.

Recommended websites to help you find books:

<http://booklists.yalsa.net/>

<https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/young-adult>

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/books/teens>

<https://www.amazon.com/100-Young-Adult-Books-to-Read-in-a-Lifetime/>

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-lists/when-holden-met-katniss>

Graphic Organizer for Book #2 (Independent Choice)

Story Map	
Characters--Who?	Setting--Where & When?
Main Conflict	

Event #1 (Beginning)	Event #2 (Middle)	Event #3 (End)
Quote from Event #1 Page # _____	Quote from Event #2 Page # _____	Quote from Event #3 Page # _____
Resolution (How is the story wrapped up?)		

a) Would you recommend this book to other students? _____

b) Provide three reasons to support your opinion. Consider aspects mentioned from the story map, including specific characters, conflicts, and/or settings. You can also consider the reading level and/or writing style.

1.
2.
3.

Design an original book cover for the novel you read. It should illustrate at least one character, a specific setting, and an image related to the main conflict.

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