

NORTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOLS
Shaker Junior High School
475 Watervliet-Shaker Rd
Latham NY 12110

8th Grade Summer Reading Project

May 2011

Dear Parents and Students:

In North Colonie, we believe that reading during the vacation months contributes significantly to a student's academic growth. As a result, we require that all 8th grade students read **three** books and complete the attached Summer Reading Project.

Students may choose books from the attached 8th grade book list or may substitute any other grade appropriate book. The attached 8th grade reading list has been designed to provide for various reading levels and interests. We advise parents and students to select books wisely. Summer reading should be an enjoyable experience, and the books chosen should be appropriate for the student both in terms of content and level of difficulty.

The 8th grade book list can also be found on the SJHS Library Webpage (<http://sjhslibrarymediacenter2008.pbworks.com/FrontPage>).

Additional summer reading packets and index cards are available at the Main Office of Shaker Junior High School.

Any student experiencing difficulty with this assignment or having questions should contact me at Shaker Junior High School, 785-1341, ext 4538.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Savery, Hall Principal
Houston & Norris Halls

DMS/mo
/attachments

SUMMER READING PROJECT

EIGHTH GRADE

On the front of a 5”X8” index card, supply the following information for each of the three books you read:

1. Title
2. Author
3. Genre
4. Setting (time and place)
5. 3 main events

On the back of the card, write a brief explanation of the theme (main idea, lesson learned) of your book that you could use as a “jumping off” point for an in class writing piece.

Note: You should have one index card for each book.

During the month of September, students will be using the information from their cards to develop an in class writing piece that will be graded. The index cards will be due the first week of school.

Remember: At least **three** books must be read.

Attached is a list of suggested books that have been highly recommended by last year’s eighth graders.

**SUMMER READING PROJECT
GRADE 8
INDEX CARD SET-UP**

Your name:

- 1. Title:**
- 2. Author:**
- 3. Genre:**
- 4. Setting (time & place):**
- 5. Three main events:**

(front ▲)

(back ▼)

Explanation of theme:

2011 Grade 8 Summer Reading List Shaker Junior High School

Adams, Douglas. *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Arthur takes a tour of the universe with only his towel and his Babel fish.

Bauer, Joan. *Stand Tall*. Being the tallest boy in his school means expectations of being more mature and being great at basketball. What it doesn't mean is being good at your parent's divorce, grandfathers and girls.

Beddor, Frank. *Looking Glass Wars*. Escaping through a portal, Alyss Heart is safe from her murderous Aunt Redd, but how will she survive this new world where no one believes her? Determined to find her way back home and avenge her family, Alyss confides in a family friend only to have him turn her story into a fairy tale. Meanwhile, a violent revolution is taking its toll on her realm and soldiers and insurgents battle for power. A humorous, if more intense take on Alice's Wonderland.

Bowers, Laura. *Beauty Shop For Rent: Fully Equipped, Inquire Within*. Raised by her great-grandmother and a bunch of beauty shop buddies, fourteen-year-old Abbey resolves to overcome her unhappy childhood with the mother who deserted her. Funny and touching--there's even romance.

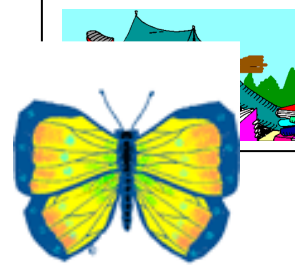
Bray, Libba. *A Great and Terrible Beauty*. After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England from India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*. Genetically engineered warriors and genius generals are necessary for Earth to fight off an Alien onslaught. By playing the game, can Ender Wiggin lead Earth to victory?

Crowe, Chris. *Mississippi 1955*. Using the true story of the murder of Emmett Till in the plot, this novel looks at how Hiram deals with the violence of racism in the early days of the civil rights movement.

Crutcher, Chris. *Ironman: A Novel*. In letters written to talk show host, Larry King, Beau struggles with his father, his coach, his friends and his dream to win the Yukon Jack Triathlon.

Crutcher, Chris. *King of the Mild Frontier*. Crutcher shares the funny as well as the serious moments of his life as a quick-tempered, sports-loving kid growing up in the late 1950's.



Donnelly, Jennifer. *A Northern Light*. It's 1906 in the Adirondacks of New York and Mattie desperately wants to accept a scholarship to Barnard College. Unfortunately, her father needs her to help run the farm and her job at the hotel brings needed money. When she meets a hotel guest that is later murdered, Mattie finds the strength she needs to make a decision.

Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion*. Matt, a human clone, finds the courage to escape his future as spare parts for his patron, a powerful drug lord. National Book Award Winner .

Feinstein, John. *Change-Up*. Stevie and Susan Carol try to uncover the mysterious past of a world series pitcher. As with the others in this mystery series, the author mixes fact and fiction by name-dropping famous sports journalists and players.

Gantos, Jack. *Hole In My Life*. Gantos' biography describes his road to prison, his journey out and his lifeline---writing.

Grant, K. M. *How The Hangman Lost His Heart*. Alice tries to reclaim the head of her Uncle Frank after he is executed for treason against King George in 1746. Her hopes for a proper burial are aided by the softhearted hangman.

2011 Grade 8 Summer Reading List Shaker Junior High School

Horowitz, Anthony. ***Stormbreaker***. Alex knows his uncle's death wasn't an accident, but when he discovers what really happened, he is pulled into a dangerous web of espionage and murder. (Other books in the series may be read too.)

Johnson, Scott. ***Safe At Second***. A tragic baseball accident leaves best friends struggling to get back in the game of baseball and of life.

Krakauer, Jon. ***Into Thin Air***. Riveting account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest by *Outside* journalist and climber Jon Krakauer. The expedition, led by expert guides, left seven people dead.

Lubar, David. ***Sleeping Freshman Never Lie***. Scott is lost, a loser and in love. Yes, he's a high school freshman, and between telling his problems to his unborn sibling, too much schoolwork, and not enough fun, he tells his trying yet often funny tale of high school's first year.

Lynch, Chris. ***The Big Game of Everything***. While managing his grandfather's golf course, Jock tries to manage his family (from his obnoxious brother to his hippy parents). Lynch has several sports-related novels including ***Slot Machine***, from last year's reading list.

Martel, Yann. ***Life of Pi***. Shipwrecked on his way from India to Canada, 16-year-old Pi fantastically recounts how he and the surviving members of his father's zoo animals survived 227 days at sea.

Mazer, Harry. ***A Boy At War: A Novel Of Pearl Harbor***. The son of a naval officer must choose between his father's wishes for a promotion and befriending a Japanese-American boy following Japan's attack.

McKinley, Robin. ***Beauty***. Competent, intelligent, but not very pretty, this girl's beauty is selflessness.

McKinley, Robin. ***Hero and the Crown***. Daughter of the Damaran king and a northern witch, Aerin

struggles to fulfill her destiny and the respect of her people.

Monk, Sue. ***Secret Life of Bees***. Lily Owen shot and killed her mother. Or so everyone says. While struggling to find clues to solve her own mystery, Lily witnesses the struggle for freedom during the 1960's Civil Rights Movement.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Monster***. Steve is accused of acting as lookout for a robbery that left a victim dead. He could serve 25 years to life if convicted. An amateur filmmaker, Steve tells his intense and gritty story in a combination of film script and journal.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Harlem Summer***. In an effort to impress a famous neighborhood jazzman, Mark takes a shady job delivering what turns out to be bootleg liquor. Set in 1925 Harlem. Enjoy Myers? Try ***Sunrise Over Fallujah*** about Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Nelson, Peter. ***Left For Dead***. This is the story of the USS Indianapolis, the worst naval disaster in U. S. history. This is the story of the ship, their wronged captain, her brave sailors, and a young man's crusade to right an injustice.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Transvall Saga***. Mark thinks he is ready for his first solo desert camping trip. Good thing he is prepared since he finds himself transported to another, more frighteningly hostile world.



Sanderson, Brandon. ***Alcatraz Versus The Evil Librarians***. A bag of sand? Yes, that's what the evil librarians need to take over the world, and only Alcatraz Smedry can stop them. Maybe the world should be worried!

2011 Grade 8 Summer Reading List
Shaker Junior High School

Schroder, Monika. *The Dog in the Wood*. World War II is over and things should be better. Unfortunately Fritz learns first hand that even though he fighting is done, life may never be normal again.

Smelcer, John. *The Trap*. Respect for his tribal elders delays Johnny's search for his missing grandfather. With time running out for the elder, who has been caught in his own hunting trap, his grandson sets off into the frozen Alaskan winter to find him.

Sones, Sonya. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*. Sophie tells her heart wrenching secrets and desires—about her best friends, her boyfriends, and how her mother is a soap—opera addict.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*. Steven is leading a pretty typical life for an 8th grade drummer until his little brother is diagnosed with leukemia. However, the author proves that in the midst of tragedy, life and love go on. Also try *Notes From A Midnight Driver* about Alex's run-in with a lawn gnome and how he faced his new life.

Strasser, Todd. *Boot Camp*. Garrett's parents, enraged by his behavior, have him incarcerated at Lake Harmony, a boot camp for troubled teens. As he undergoes brainwashing techniques that are both physically and mentally abusive, he realizes how totally and hopelessly isolated he is.

Tharp, Tim. *Knights of the Hill Country*. High school star linebacker and senior, Hampton Greene, finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football.