

## SUMMER READING CHOICES FOR 8th-GRADERS

Central Middle School 2016-17

**Eighth graders are required to read Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl (not the definitive edition) and at least one other book during the summer. They may pick the second book from the list below or choose another age-appropriate title.**

***We encourage students to read more than two books during the summer. Research shows independent reading is the single largest contributor to academic success.***

Title	Author	Genre/Award
<b><i>Watership Down</i></b>	Richard Adams	Classic, Fantasy
Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.		
<b><i>Rules of the Road</i></b>	Joan Bauer	Realistic Fiction
Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.		
<b><i>The School for Good and Evil</i></b>	Soman Chainani	Fantasy
Best friends Sophie and Agatha discover their true identities when they enter The School for Good and Evil, a school where ordinary boys and girls are trained to be fairy tale heroes and villains.		
<b><i>Saint Anything</i></b>	Sarah Dessen	Realistic Fiction
Sydney's grown accustomed to her brother, Peyton, being the focus of the family's attention and, lately, concern. Now, after a drunk-driving accident that crippled a boy, Peyton's serving some serious jail time, and Sydney is on her own, questioning her place in the family and the world.		
<b><i>Romiette and Julio</i></b>	Sharon M. Draper	Realistic Fiction
Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating. A retelling of Romeo and Juliet.		
<b><i>Johnny Tremain</i></b>	Esther Forbes	Historical Fiction
After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons		

of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.		
<b><i>The Princess Bride: S. Morgentern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure</i></b>	William Goldman	Fantasy
A farm boy goes off to seek his fortune shortly after declaring his love for the most beautiful woman in the world, but their relationship is put to the test when his ship is captured by pirates and she is summoned to become the bride of the prince.		
<b><i>Michael Vey : the prisoner of cell 25</i></b>	Richard Paul Evans	Science Fiction
Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them and, after Michael's mother is kidnapped, he will need to rely on his powers and his friends to rescue his mom, protect himself, and save the others.		
<b><i>Skink: No Surrender</i></b>	Carl Hiaasen	Adventure, Humor
With the help of an eccentric ex-governor, a teenaged boy searches for his missing cousin in the Florida wilds.		
<b><i>How Angel Peterson Got his Name and Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports</i></b>	Gary Paulsen	Adventure, Humor, Memoir
Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel		
<b><i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i></b> , or any book in the series	J.K. Rowling	Fantasy
A young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.		
<b><i>Bomb : the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon</i></b>	Steve Sheinkin	Nonfiction
Scientists race to invent atomic bomb in a high stakes gambles that involves plotting, risk-taking, deceit, and genius.		
<b><i>The Schwa was Here</i></b>	Neal Shusterman	Realistic Fiction
A Brooklyn eighth-grader nicknamed Antsy befriends the Schwa, an "invisible-ish" boy who is tired of blending into his surroundings and going unnoticed by nearly everyone.		
<b><i>Unwind</i></b>	Neal Shusterman	Science Fiction

<p>In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them.</p>		
<p><b><i>Independence Hall</i></b></p>	<p>Roland Smith</p>	<p>Action and Adventure</p>
<p>Quest and his stepsister Angela are thrust into the dangerous world of the American Secret Service and the Israeli Mossad when they learn Angela's real mother was a former Secret Service agent who was killed by a terrorist group.</p>		
<p><b><i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i></b></p>	<p>Elizabeth George Speare</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p>In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.</p>		
<p><b><i>Treasure Island</i></b></p>	<p>Robert Louis Stevenson</p>	<p>Classic</p>
<p>A boy's bravery is tested by murder, mutiny, and betrayal as he finds himself mixed up with pirates searching for treasure where X marks the spot; available free in many formats at <a href="https://www.gutenberg.org">https://www.gutenberg.org</a> .</p>		
<p><b><i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i></b></p>	<p>Mark Twain</p>	<p>Classic, Adventure</p>
<p>Huck, in flight from his murderous father, and Jim, in flight from slavery, pilot their raft down the Mississippi River in search of freedom; available free in many formats at <a href="https://www.gutenberg.org">https://www.gutenberg.org</a>.</p>		
<p><b><i>Paper Boy</i></b></p>	<p>Vince Vawter</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>
<p>Little Man throws the meanest fastball in town. But talking is a whole different ball game because of his stutter. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for a month, he doesn't want to talk to customers. But a junkman, a bully and thief stir up real trouble.</p>		
<p><b><i>I am Malala : how one girl stood up for education and changed the world</i></b></p>	<p>Malala Yousafzai</p>	<p>Autobiography</p>
<p>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.</p>		