

8th Grade Summer Reading List

Titles- <i>Select One</i>	Summary
<p><i>Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science</i> John Fleischman Lexile 1030</p>	<p>Phineas Gage was truly a man with a hole in his head. Phineas, a railroad construction foreman, was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived to live another eleven years and become a textbook case in brain science. At the time, Phineas Gage seemed to completely recover from his accident. He could walk, talk, work, and travel, but he was changed. His case astonished doctors in his day and still fascinates doctors today. What happened and what didn't happen inside the brain of Phineas Gage will tell you a lot about how your brain works and how you act human.</p>
<p><i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> Jules Verne Lexile 870</p>	<p>Originally published in 1870, Verne's amazing undersea adventure is one of the earliest science fiction novels ever written. Since that time, generations of readers have plunged below the ocean's waves with Captain Nemo and his first-ever submarine, <i>The Nautilus</i>. It's a voyage of exploration and the imagination.</p>
<p><i>Dead End in Norvelt</i> Jack Gantos 920 Lexile</p>	<p>In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.</p>
<p><i>Shooting the Moon</i> Frances O'Roark Dowell 890 Lexile</p>	<p>Twelve year old Jamie Dexter's brother joins the army and is sent to the Vietnam War. At first, she can't wait to hear about his tales about battle. However, when he only sends her rolls of film to be developed, she begins to see a side of war she never imagined.</p>
<p><i>All Shook Up</i> Shelly Pearsall 890 Lexile</p>	<p>Thirteen year old Josh has to move to Chicago with his father while his mother nurses his grandmother. Starting a new school isn't Josh's only problem – it turns out his father is an Elvis impersonator.</p>

<p><i>Navy Seal Dogs</i> Mike Ritland & Gary Brozek 1140 Lexile</p>	<p>Ritland and Brozek give readers the first inside look at the SEAL teams' elite K9 warriors. Who they are, how they are trained, and the extreme missions they undertake to save lives. From detecting explosives to eliminating the bad guys, these powerful dogs are also some of the smartest and highest skilled working animals on the planet. This is the true story of how Mike Ritland grew from a skinny, bullied child, to a member of our nation's most elite SEAL Teams, to the trainer of the world's most highly skilled K9 warriors.</p>
<p><i>The Eighth Day</i> Dianne Salerni 730 Lexile</p>	<p>When Jax wakes up to a world without any people, he assumes it's the zombie apocalypse. But when he runs into his eighteen-year-old guardian, Riley Pendare, he learns that he's really in the Eighth Day—an extra day sandwiched between Wednesday and Thursday. Some people—like Jax and Riley—are Transitioners, able to live in all eight days, while others, including Evangeline, the elusive teenage girl who's been hiding in the house next door, exist only on this special day.</p>
<p>GRADE 8 STUDENT RECOMMENDED TITLES</p>	
<p><i>Projekt 1065</i> Alan Gratz 780 Lexile</p>	<p>World War II is raging. Michael O'Shaunessey, the son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany, lives in war-torn Berlin with his parents. Like the other boys at his school, Michael is a member of the Hitler Youth. But Michael has a secret: He and his parents are spies. Michael and his family help downed Allied airmen to safety and send the Allies coded messages with the locations of Nazi factories, but when one of the boys in Michael's Hitler Youth group shows him the secret plans to Projekt 1065, a prototype Nazi jet plane that could change the course of the war, Michael knows he has to steal the blueprints. To get close to the boy and the blueprints Michael has to go deeper and deeper into the madness of the Hitler Youth, and to do that, he may just have to sacrifice everything-and everyone-he loves.</p>

<p><i>Faceless</i> Alyssa Sheinmel 790 Lexile</p>	<p>While on a run one day, Maise gets into a terrible accident. A hot-burning electrical fire consumes her, destroying her face. Where her nose, cheeks, and chin used to be, now there is . . . nothing. She is lucky enough to qualify for a face transplant. But with someone else's features staring back at her in the mirror, Maise looks -- and feels -- like a stranger. The doctors promised that the transplant was her chance to live a normal life again, but nothing feels normal anymore. Before, she knew who she was -- a regular girl who ran track and got good grades, who loved her boyfriend and her best friend. Now, she can't even recognize herself.</p>
<p><i>The Book Thief</i> Markus Zusak 730 Lexile</p>	<p>One of the most enduring stories of our time, <i>The Book Thief</i> is just a small story really, about, among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist fighter, and quite a lot of thievery.</p>
<p>GRADE 8 TITLES FOR RESOURCE AND READ 180 STUDENTS ONLY Resource level students should select one book from the list above or the list below.</p>	
<p><i>Things Not Seen</i> Andrew Clements 690 Lexile (Resource Students and Read 180 Students Only)</p>	<p>Fifteen year old Bobby, his parents and his friend Alicia try to find a cure when he wakes up one day and finds himself invisible.</p>
<p><i>Firegirl</i> Tony Abbott 670 Lexile (Resource Students and Read 180 Students Only)</p>	<p>Tom, a seventh grader, tells about the arrival of Jessica, a new student who was badly burned in a fire and is attending St. Catherine's while she gets treatments at a local hospital. The students in Tom's class are afraid of her because of her appearance but little by little he develops a friendship with her that changes his life.</p>