Dear Students,

Welcome to 8th Grade! The eighth grade team would like you to read two books this summer. We recommend the books below, but if you want to read books off the list, that is fine too. If you prefer to listen to your books, spoken books are a great option! You can purchase an audiobook or borrow one from the public library using the Libby app.

As you read your books, you should take notes on the key characters and events and how each contributed to what happened. When we get back to school in September, we will be working with these notes to write our first essay, so make sure they are legible and thorough.

There are many different types of books on this list, graphic novels, action, sports, realistic, romantic, historical fiction – a little something for everyone. Choose books that interest you so your reading will be enjoyable.

We highly recommend you read more than just 2 books and hope you find many books you enjoy from this list! You will need acquire these books on your own. If you cannot get a physical copy of the books (through the library or for purchase) you choose, you can look for them in an electronic format from the Briarcliff Public Library or the New York Public Library. You can find instructions on how to access those here: https://bit.ly/PublicLibraryHowTo

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!
Reading over the summer will help you improve your comprehension and writing skills. There are many types of books on this list, some short, some long, some serious, some funny, true stories and fiction. Find a few you’re interested in and enjoy them on vacation!

Alcott, Louisa May  
**LITTLE WOMEN**: Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they're putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there's one thing they can't help wondering: Will Father return home safely?

Alexander, Kwame  
**SOLO**: Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict. His one light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship. In reality, the only thing Blade and his dad have in common is the music that lives inside them. When a family secret comes to light, the music disappears. In its place is a letter that could bring Blade the freedom and love he's been searching for.

Anderson, M.T.  
**ASSASSINATION OF BRANGWAIN SPURGE**: Uptight elfin historian Brangwain Spurge is on a mission: survive being catapulted across the mountains into goblin territory, deliver a priceless peace offering, and spy on the goblin kingdom - from which no elf has returned alive in more than a hundred years. Brangwain's host, the goblin archivist Werfel, is delighted to show Brangwain around. They should be the best of friends, but a series of double crosses, blunders, and cultural misunderstandings throws these two bumbling scholars into the middle of an international crisis.

Anderson, Natalie  
**CITY OF SAINTS AND THIEVES**: Sixteen-year-old Tina and two friends leave Kenya and slip into the Congo, from where she and her mother fled years before, seeking revenge for her mother's murder but uncovering startling secrets.

Austen, Jane  
**MANSFIELD PARK**: Fanny Price, a teenaged girl of low social rank brought up on her wealthy relatives' countryside estate feels the sharp sting of rejection when her cousin Edmund, the only person who treats her as an equal, is won over by a flirtatious, exciting--and unprincipled--London girl.

Bolden, Tonya  
**CROSSING EBENEZER CREEK**: Freed from slavery, Mariah and her young brother Zeke join Sherman's march through Georgia, where Mariah
meets a free black named Caleb and dares to imagine the possibility of true love, but hope can come at a cost.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  
THE WAR I FINALLY WON: When Ada's clubfoot is surgically fixed at last, she knows for certain that she's not what her mother said she was--damaged, deranged, crippled mentally as well as physically. She's not a daughter anymore, either. Who is she now? World War II rages on and Ada & Jamie, move with Susan, into a cottage with Lady Thornton and Maggie. Life in the crowded home is tense. Then Ruth moves in. Ruth, a Jewish girl, from Germany. Could Ruth be a spy?  
Sequel to THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE

Cashore, Kristin  
GRACELING: In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king. Sequels: FIRE, BITTERBLUE

Deuker, Carl  
GUTLESS: Falling short of varsity qualifications because of his tendency to avoid physical aggression, talented football player Brock Ripley struggles to face his fears when his team's star quarterback begins bullying Brock's best friend.

Florence, Debbi Michiko  
JUST BE COOL, JENNA SAKAI: When boyfriend Elliott breaks up with Jenna Sakai before Christmas break, she just about convinces herself that relationships are for suckers and she is better off without them; but unfortunately she finds herself in competition with Elliott for a journalism scholarship, and worse her first assignment for the newspaper club is to write a personal essay, which is difficult when you are someone who prefers to keep your emotions bottled up--and then there is Rin Watanabe, a boy as stubborn as Jenna herself, and a mystery that Jenna cannot help but investigate.

Fukuda, Andrew  
THIS LIGHT BETWEEN US: In 1935, ten-year-old Alex Maki from Bainbridge Island, Washington is disgusted when he's forced to become pen pals with Charlie Levy of Paris, France--a girl. He thought she was a boy. In spite of Alex's reluctance, their letters continue to fly across the Atlantic--and along with them, the shared hopes and dreams of friendship. Until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the growing Nazi persecution of Jews force them to confront the darkest aspects of human nature.

Gephart, Donna  
LILY AND DUNKIN: 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. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar 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

Glaser, Mechthild  **BOOK JUMPER**: A teen girl discovers she is a book jumper--she can leap directly into books, meet the characters, and experience the world of the book.

Green, Tim  **FOOTBALL GENIUS**: Troy has an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur. He attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Hardinge, Frances  **A FACE LIKE GLASS**: When Neverfell, who has no memory, arrives in Caverna, her facial expressions make her very dangerous to the people who live with blank faces or pay dearly to learn to simulate emotions.

Jackson, Tiffany D.  **LET ME HEAR A RHYME**: Brooklyn, 1998. Biggie Smalls was right: Things done changed. But that doesn't mean that Quadir and Jarrell are cool letting their best friend Steph's music lie forgotten under his bed after he's murdered--not when his rhymes could turn any Bed Stuy corner into a party. With the help of Steph's younger sister Jasmine, they come up with a plan to promote Steph's music under a new rap name: the Architect. Soon, everyone wants a piece of him. When his demo catches the attention of a hotheaded music label rep, the trio must prove Steph's talent from beyond the grave.

Johnson, Maureen  **TRULY DEVIOUS**: True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she has an ambitious plan: She will solve the cold case murder of the school founder’s family. That is, she will solve the case when she gets a grip on her demanding new school life and her housemates: the inventor, the novelist, the actor, the artist, and the jokester. But something strange is happening. Mystery makes a surprise return, and death revisits Ellingham Academy. The past has crawled out of its grave. Someone has gotten away with murder. *Sequels: THE VANISHING STAIR, THE HAND ON THE WALL*

Kinsella, W.P.  **SHOELESS JOE**: Ray Kinsella's fanatic love of baseball drives him to build a baseball stadium in his corn field and kidnap the author, J.D. Salinger, and bring him to a baseball game.

Krosoczka, Jarrett  **HEY KIDDO**: In his graphic novel style memoir, Jarrett Krosoczka describes how in kindergarten his teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and - Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery. Jarrett lives with his loud, opinionated, but loving
grandparents. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

Lupica, Mike  **THE BIG FIELD**: When fourteen-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

Lupica, Mike  **DEFENDING THE CHAMP**: When the girls soccer team learns it has been canceled due to budget cuts, they come up with a plan to raise the necessary funds through a face-off with the boys' team, which is led by sneering superstar Chase Gwinn.

McGee, Katharine  **AMERICAN ROYALS**: What if America had a royal family? When America won the Revolutionary War, its people offered General George Washington a crown. Two and a half centuries later, the House of Washington still sits on the throne. As Princess Beatrice gets closer to becoming the first queen regnant, the duty she has embraced her entire life suddenly feels stifling. Nobody cares about the spare except when she's breaking the rules, so Princess Samantha doesn't care much about anything, either . . . except the one boy who is off-limits to her. And then there's Prince Jefferson. Most of America adores their handsome prince . . . but two very different girls are vying to capture his heart.

Myers, Walter Dean  **HOOPS**: Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson sees the city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions as a possible escape from Harlem but fears the pressures that have sidelined his coach, Cal.

Nayeri, Daniel  **EVERYTHING SAD IS UNTRUE: (A TRUE STORY)**: At the front of a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou (whom everyone calls 'Daniel') stands, trying to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. To them he is a dark-skinned, hairy-armed boy with a big butt whose lunch smells funny; who makes things up and talks about poop too much. But Khosrou's stories, stretching back years, and decades, and centuries, are beautiful, and terrifying, from the moment he, his mother, and sister fled Iran in the middle of the night, stretching all the way back to family tales set in the jasmine-scented city of Isfahan, the palaces of semi-ancient kings, and even the land of stories.

Neilson, Jennifer  **A NIGHT DIVIDED**: When the Berlin Wall went up, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz were trapped on the eastern side where they were living, while her father, and her other brother Dominic were in the West--four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom.
Ness, Patrick  
**A MONSTER CALLS**: Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill—an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.

Reeve, Philip  
**FEVER CRUMB**: Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an engineer although females in the future London, England, are not believed capable of rational thought, but at age fourteen she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present. Sequels: **WEB OF AIR, SCRIVENER'S MOON**

Reintgen, Scott  
**NYXIA**: Emmett accepts an interstellar space contract but learns en route that to win the promised fortune he and nine other recruits face a brutal competition, putting their very humanity at risk.

Remarque, Erich M.  
**ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT**: In 1914 a room full of German schoolboys, fresh-faced and idealistic, are goaded by their schoolmaster to troop off to the ‘glorious war’. With the fire and patriotism of youth they sign up. What follows is the moving story of a young ‘unknown soldier’ experiencing the horror and disillusionment of life in the trenches.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker  
**PARADISE ON FIRE**: Addy is haunted by the tragic fire that killed her parents, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother. Years later, Addy’s grandmother has enrolled her in a summer wilderness program. Deep in the forest the kids learn new skills: camping, hiking, rock climbing, and how to start and safely put out campfires. Most important, they learn to depend upon each other for companionship and survival. But then comes a devastating forest fire...

Riordan, Rick, editor:  
**CURSED CARNIVAL AND OTHER CALAMATIES: NEW STORIES ABOUT MYTHIC HEROES**: Ten bestselling and award-winning authors contributed to this collection: Roshani Chokshi, J.C. Cervantes, Yoon Ha Lee, Carlos Hernandez, Kwame Mbalia, Rebecca Roanhorse, Tehlor Kay Mejia, Sarwat Chadda, Graci Kim, and Rick Riordan. There's something for everyone in this group of fast-paced and funny adventure stories that show what it takes to be a hero in any time, setting, and universe.

Saenz, Benjamin Alire  
**ARISTOTLE AND DANTE DISCOVER THE UNIVERSE**: Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.
Schmidt, Gary D  ORBITING JUPITER: The shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he's placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled teen who wants to find his baby at any cost. In the time they're together the two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires.

Scieszka, Jon, editor  SPORTS PAGES: the third volume in Jon Scieszka's Guys Read Library of Great Reading, features ten short stories guaranteed to put you in the ring, under the basket, and right behind home plate. From fiction to nonfiction, from baseball to mixed martial arts and everything in between, these are a collection of stories about the rush of victory and the crush of defeat on and off the field.

Sharpe, Tess  CAPTAIN MARVEL: LIBERATION RUN: When a mysterious spacecraft comes hurtling toward Earth, Carol Danvers--the hero known as Captain Marvel--narrowly prevents it from crashing. The craft's pilot is a young inhuman woman, part of a group who rejected that society's caste system and left for the stars in search of a new life. What they found, however, was imprisonment on a planet where Inhumans are treated like currency, and possession of an Inhuman girl brings great power and influence. To refuse means death, and Rhi has risked everything to seek help.

Stevenson, Robert Louis  TREASURE ISLAND: The tale is told by an adventurous boy, Jim Hawkins, who gets hold of a treasure map and sets off with an adult crew in search of the buried treasure. Among the crew, however, is the treacherous Long John Silver who is determined to keep the treasure for himself. Stevenson's first full-length work of fiction brought him immediate fame and continues to captivate readers of all ages.

Tolkein, J.R.R.  FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING: One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them. In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the Ring to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ring and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

Wang, Jen  THE PRINCE AND THE DRESSMAKER: In this graphic novel, Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride--or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia! Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances—the only other person who knows the truth:
sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend?

Wein, Elizabeth  
**THE ENIGMA GAME**: Told in multiple voices, fifteen-year-old Jamaican Louisa Adair uncovers an Enigma machine in the small Scottish village where she cares for an elderly German woman, and helps solve a puzzle that could turn the tide of World War II.

Williams, Alicia  
**GENESIS BEGINS AGAIN**: Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family’s troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

Yoon, Nicola  
**THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR**: Natasha is a girl who believes in science and facts. Daniel has always been a good son and good student. But when he sees Natasha he forgets all that and believes there is something extraordinary in store for both of them. *Printz Honor Book, 2017*

**NON-FICTION**

Alexander, Kwame  
**THE PLAYBOOK: 52 RULES TO AIM, SHOOT, AND SCORE IN THIS GAME CALLED LIFE**: Kwame Alexander shares poetry and inspiring lessons about the rules of life, as well as uplifting quotes from athletes such as Stephen Curry and Venus Williams and other exemplars like Sonia Sotomayor and Michelle Obama in this motivational and inspirational book just right for graduates of any age and anyone needing a little encouragement.

Bascomb, Neal  
**THE NAZI HUNTERS: HOW A TEAM OF SPIES AND SURVIVORS CAPTURED THE WORLDS MOST NOTORIOUS NAZI**: In 1945 at the end of World War II, Adolf Eichmann, the head of operations for the Nazi’s Final Solution, walked into the mountains of Germany and vanished from view. Sixteen years later, an elite team of spies captured him at a bus stop in Argentina and smuggled him to Israel, resulting in one of the century’s most important trials – one that cemented the Holocaust in the public imagination.

Bausum, Ann  
**WITH COURAGE AND WITH CLOTH: WINNING THE FIGHT FOR A WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE**: The long, arduous and sometimes violent struggle for a woman’s right to vote is told in an engaging narrative. The roots of the movement as well as the other efforts it spawned are well told.

Blumenthal, Karen  
**BOOTLEG: MURDER, MOONSHINE, AND THE LAWLESS YEARS OF PROHIBITION**: It began with the best of intentions. Worried about the effects of alcohol on American families, mothers and
civic leaders started a movement to outlaw drinking in public places. Over time, their protests, petitions, and activism paid off with a Constitutional Amendment banning the sale and consumption of alcohol. Instead, it began a decade of lawlessness, when the most upright citizens casually broke the law, and a host of notorious gangsters entered the public eye.

Freedman, Russell

**THE VOICE THAT CHALLENGED A NATION: MARIAN ANDERSON AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS:** A biography of the great singer Marian Anderson and her role in bringing the injustice of segregation in the arts to national awareness. *Newbery Honor Book, 2005*

Hoose, Phillip M.

**CLAUDETTE COLVIN: TWICE TOWARD JUSTICE:** The story of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case. *Newbery Honor Book 2010, National Book Award, 2009*

Keenan, Sheila

**THE HEARTBEAT OF WOUNDED KNEE (YOUNG READERS ADAPTATION):** Since the late 1800s, it has been believed that Native American civilization has been wiped from the United States. The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee argues that Native American culture is far from defeated—if anything, it is thriving as much today as it was one hundred years ago. The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee looks at Native American culture as it exists today—and the fight to preserve language and traditions.

Roach, Mary

**FUZZ: WHEN NATURE BREAKS THE LAW:** Roach tags along with animal-attack forensics investigators, human-elephant conflict specialists, bear managers, and "danger tree" faller blasters. Intrepid as ever, she travels from leopard-terrorized hamlets in the Indian Himalaya to St. Peter’s Square in the early hours before the pope arrives for Easter Mass, when vandal gulls swoop in to destroy the elaborate floral display. She taste-tests rat bait, learns how to install a vulture effigy, and gets mugged by a macaque.

Seiple, Samantha

**LINCOLN’S SPYMASTER: ALLAN PINKERTON, AMERICA’S FIRST PRIVATE EYE:** Pinkerton was just a poor immigrant barrel-maker in Illinois when he stumbled across his first case just miles from his home. His reputation grew and people began approaching Pinkerton with their cases, he assembled a team of undercover agents, and together they caught train robbers, counterfeiters, and other outlaws. Seeing firsthand the value of Pinkerton's service, President Lincoln, seeing how useful Pinkerton’s team was, funded Pinkerton's spy network, a precursor to the Secret Service.
Sheinkin, Steve

**FALLOUT: SPIES, SUPERBOMBS AND THE ULTIMATE COLD WAR SHOWDOWN:** As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two greatest world powers on opposites of the political spectrum. After the U.S. showed its hand with the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the Soviets refuse to be left behind. The two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night. The Cold War game grows more precarious as weapons are pointed towards each other, with fingers literally on the trigger. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third-and final-world war.

Stone, Tanya Lee

**THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BARBIE: A DOLL'S HISTORY AND HER IMPACT ON US:** Is Barbie a blond Chucky slashing away at little girls' self-esteem? Or is she My First Feminist, with her lab coats, astronaut helmets, and high-fashion gowns, encouraging girls to imagine themselves in whatever roles they choose? This book explores how Barbie has influenced generations of girls, discussing criticisms of the doll, her role in fashion, and her surprising popularity during her first fifty years.

Tougas, Michael

**ABANDON SHIP! THE TRUE WORLD WAR II STORY ABOUT THE SINKING OF THE LACONIA:** On September 12, 1942, the RMS Laconia was attacked by a German submarine. What the Germans didn't know was that they had just attacked their allies: locked below decks on the British ship were nearly 1,800 Italian prisoners of war. When the Germans realized their mistake, they made the unprecedented decision to rescue all survivors regardless of their nationality, attempting to declare the waters a neutral zone.

Turner, Pamela

**SAMURAI RISING: THE EPIC LIFE OF MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE:** Minamoto Yoshitsune should not have been a samurai. But his story is legend in this real-life saga. When Yoshitsune was a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family--and lost. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality.