

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

## School Year 2025-2026

Hello VCS 8<sup>th</sup> graders! I hope you're having a good summer so far! You do have a summer reading assignment because independent reading is one of the best things you can do for your brain. So many studies show that reading just 20 minutes a day will increase your vocabulary, elevate your reading comprehension, and will help you understand your other school subjects better.

For your assignment, please choose two books from the following book list to read. Please choose books from different genres. For example, choose one realistic fiction and one autobiography, or one historical fiction and one science fiction. When you have completed your reading, please complete one of the attached "Book Notes" for each book. You may also write this assignment on your own notebook paper. Please have both "Book Notes" pages ready to turn in the first week of school. Please ensure you are paying attention to writing complete sentences with a focus on capitalization, punctuation, and complete thoughts. For this class, you may read a 3<sup>rd</sup> book from the list below for extra credit. You will need to complete a "Book Notes" on this 3<sup>rd</sup> book as well.

Please have your "Book Notes" ready to turn in by Friday, August 15. If you enroll after July 31, your teacher may extend the due date accordingly. I will remind you on our first day of school, which is Wednesday, August 13!! If you have questions, you may email me at [cmabe@victory.com](mailto:cmabe@victory.com). Praying you all have a restful, relaxing summer and I can't wait to see you in class!

--- Your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teachers

# **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Menu**

## **Summer Reading Assignment 24/25**

### *A Wrinkle in Time*

By Madeleine L'Engle

**Genre: Science Fiction, Book Level 4.7**

Out of this wild night, a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe on a most dangerous and extraordinary adventure—one that will threaten their lives and our universe.

### *Esperanza Rising*

By Pam Munoz Ryan

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.3**

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

### *Watership Down*

By Richard Adams

**Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Book Level 6.2**

Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

### *A Place For Peter*

By Elizabeth Yates

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.7**

A Place for Peter, a fiction by Elizabeth Yates, insightfully depicts a boy's struggle to become a man. In this sequel to the Newbery Honor book Mountain Born, Peter endeavors to prove to his father that he is dependable. As he throws himself into the work of the farm, he grows into strength and into his father's trust. But the ultimate test of his courage comes from the fangs of a rattlesnake.

## *The Wednesday Wars*

By Gary D. Schmidt

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.9**

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation—the Big M—in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.

## *Grace, Gold, & Glory: My Leap of Faith*

By Gabriel Douglas with Michelle Burford

**Genre: Biography, Book Level 6.3**

In the 2012 London Olympics, US gymnast Gabrielle Douglas stole hearts and flew high as the All-Around Gold Medal winner and the brightest star of the US gold-medal-winning women's gymnastics team. That same year, Gabrielle was also named the 2012 Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation.

In this personal autobiography, *Grace, Gold, and Glory: My Leap of Faith*, Gabrielle tells her story of faith, perseverance, and determination. Walk with Gabby Douglas through her journey of faith and what her family overcame, from the time she first entered a gymnasium to her gold-medal-winning performances, demonstrating to readers ages 13 and up that they can reach their dreams when they let themselves soar.

## *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson*

By Katherine Johnson

**Genre: Autobiography, Book Level 7.1**

As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. In school she quickly skipped ahead several grades and was soon studying complex equations with the support of a professor who saw great promise in her. But ability and opportunity did not always go hand in hand. As an African American and a girl growing up in an era of brutal racism and sexism, Katherine faced daily challenges. Still, she lived her life with her father's words in mind: "You are no better than anyone else, and nobody else is better than you."

In the early 1950s, Katherine was thrilled to join the organization that would become NASA. She worked on many of NASA's biggest projects including the Apollo 11 mission that landed the first men on the moon.

## *Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team*

By Steve Sheinkin

**Genre: Biography, Book Level 6.8**

Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner- Before these men became legends, they met in 1907 at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania, where they forged one of the winningest teams in the history of America's favorite sport. Called "the team that invented football," Carlisle's innovative squad challenged the greatest, most elite teams—Harvard, Yale, Army—audaciously vowing to take their place among the nation's football powers.

This is an astonishing underdog sports story—and more. It's an unflinching look at the U.S. government's violent persecution of Native Americans and the school that was designed to erase Indian cultures. It's the story of a group of young men who came together at that school, the overwhelming obstacles they faced both on and off the field, and their absolute refusal to accept defeat.

## *Inside Out and Back Again*

By Thanhha Lai

**Genre: Historical Fiction, Book Level 4.8**

For all the ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, Hà discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food . . . and the strength of her very own family.

## *Daniel at the Siege of Boston, 1776 (The Boys of War Time)*

By Laurie Calkhoven

**Genre: Historical Fiction, Book Level 5.1**

Twelve-year-old Daniel Prescott cheered when the Sons of Liberty dumped English tea into Boston Harbor. Then King George sent his soldiers to take over Boston and its port. Now Daniel's home is a city under siege. When his father slips away to join the rebels, Daniel works in the family tavern and eavesdrops on Redcoat officers. He soon learns how to slip across British lines and becomes a messenger and spy, bringing vital news of the enemy to his father, and even to General Washington. To do so puts Daniel's life in danger. But, to a Patriot, liberty is well worth any risk.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Notes

Book Title:

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Genre:

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Point of View (1<sup>st</sup> person, etc.):

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Main Character:

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Supporting Character(s):

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Setting:

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Plot:

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Conflict/Resolution:

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Text Connection:

Can you identify or relate to anything in this story? Has something similar happened to you, someone you know, in another book you have read, or that you have heard or seen happening in today's society?

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Give your personal rating of this book on a scale of 1 to 5. 1 is the worst book I've ever read, 5 is one of the best books I've ever read. You must support your rating with two specific reasons.

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