

8th Grade Summer Reading

Required Reading:

You must read the following book and fill out the attached worksheet.

1. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith**

a. IL: UG - BL: 5.8

Francie Nolan is a girl growing up in Brooklyn in the early 1900's. Although her life is hard – her family is poor, her father dies when she is young, and she does not easily make friends – Francie observes what happens around her and tries to make the best of things. In the process she becomes a strong young woman, with powerful memories of her childhood and an eagerness to learn what her future may hold.

Choose two books from the list below:

You must choose two works from the list below and fill out the attached reading analysis worksheet **for each book**.

○ **The Glory Field, Walter Myers**

a. IL: UG - BL: 5.0

This moving, effective novel is a sort of Roots for young adults. It chronicles the African American experience through the lives and times of one family, beginning in 1753 with the capture of Muhammed Bilal in Sierra Leone. He survives his journey to America on a slave ship to become the founder of a family, whose history *The Glory Field* is all about. The decades pass swiftly and are connected by characters who appear in one segment of the saga and reappear later as survivors from the past or as memories. Each part of the story ends on a hopeful note, yet each is unfinished. The vast array of characters play out their lives challenged and beset by problems of racism, poverty, and identity. The anchors in their lives are family and their love for one another and their land. A beautifully written, powerful book. Review from Amazon.com.

● **The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck**

○ IL: UG - BL: 6.8

A poignant tale about the life and labors of a Chinese farmer during the sweeping reign of the country's last emperor.

● **Bless Me, Ultima, Rudolfo Anaya**

○ IL: UG - BL: 5.4

Ultima, the curandera, introduces the magical secrets of the indigenous world to young Antonio Marez as he struggles to find his place in his New Mexican community.

● **Homecoming, Cynthia Voigt**

○ IL: MG - BL: 4.4

Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.

● **Alicia, My Story, Alicia Appleman-Jurman**

- IL: **UG** - BL: **6.1**
After losing her entire family to the Nazis at age 13, Alicia Appleman-Jurman went on to save the lives of thousands of Jews, offering them her own courage and hope in a time of upheaval and tragedy.
- **A Separate Peace, John Knowles**
 - IL: **UG** - BL: **6.9**
The volatile world of male adolescence provides the backdrop for this engrossing take of love, hate, war, and peace. Sharing a room at Devon, an exclusive New England prep school, in the summer prior to World War II, Gene and Phineas form a complex bond of friendship that draws out both the best and the worst characteristics of each boy and leads ultimately to violence, a confession, and the betrayal of trust.
- **The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton**
 - IL: **UG** - BL: **4.7**
 - Rivalry between rich and poor gangs in 1960s Oklahoma leads to the deaths of three teenagers and intense soul-searching for one of the kids involved, a sensitive fourteen-year-old writer named Ponyboy.

- **Tales of Terror**

Poe, Edgar Allan

AR Quiz No. 108141 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **8.8** - AR Pts: **5.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★☆☆

This book presents a collection of six tales by Edgar Allan Poe, celebrated nineteenth-century writer of mystery and macabre.

- **Peak**

Smith, Roland

AR Quiz No. 114836 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **9.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, VP**

Rating: ★★☆☆

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

- **I Am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee**

Shields, Charles J.

AR Quiz No. 121469 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **8.3** - AR Pts: **10.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★☆☆

This young adult adaptation of **MOCKINGBIRD: A PORTRAIT OF HARPER LEE**, takes an in-depth look at the unconventional, high-spirited woman who drew on her love of writing and her Southern home to create an American classic.

- **Gifts**

Le Guin, Ursula K.

AR Quiz No. 80490 EN Fiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **5.6** - AR Pts: **9.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, VP**

Rating: ★★★★★

When a young man in the Uplands blinds himself rather than use his gift of "unmaking," a violent talent shared by members of his family, he upsets the precarious balance of power among rival, feuding families. Book #1

- **April Morning**

Fast, Howard

AR Quiz No. 728 EN Fiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **6.1** - AR Pts: **9.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, LS, VP**

Rating: ★★★★★

A boy endures a baptism by fire and becomes a man during the bloody Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775.

- **Animal Farm**

Orwell, George

AR Quiz No. 727 EN Fiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **7.3** - AR Pts: **5.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, LS, VP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Politically minded farm animals undergo a revolution against their human master and establish a new government that fails because of a corrupt leader tempted by greed and power.

- **After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance**

O'Brien, Anne Sibley

AR Quiz No. 129048 EN Nonfiction

IL: **MG+** - BL: **8.1** - AR Pts: **4.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★★★★

Profiled in this book are fifteen activists who were inspired by the life and work of

Mohandas Gandhi to use nonviolent protest as a means of bringing about social change.
The coauthor is Perry Edmond O'Brien.

- **1776**

McCullough, David G.

AR Quiz No. 104010 EN Nonfiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **9.1** - AR Pts: **20.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP**

Rating: ★★☆☆

Based upon both American and British historical documents, the author presents a comprehensive history of the American Revolution during 1776, the story of George Washington and those who followed him, and the story of the British redcoats.

- **Lord of the Flies**

Golding, William

AR Quiz No. 744 EN Fiction

IL: **UG** - BL: **5.0** - AR Pts: **9.0**

AR Quiz Types: **RP, LS, VP**

Rating: ★★☆☆

Shipwrecked English schoolboys set up their own civilization, but savagery finally emerges.

8th Grade Reading Analysis

Directions: Fill out a chart for *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Additionally, fill out a chart for the other two books that you have chosen. You do not need to use complete sentences. You may use extra paper if you need more space.

Characters Who are the main characters? List at least 5 descriptive adjectives for each character.	
Setting Where is the story set? What does it look like? How is it different from the other places in the story?	
Plot What is the story line? What are the important parts of the story?	
Theme What do you think the main idea of the story is?	
Important Quotations Write down at	

<p>least 3 quotes that you think are important to the plot or theme of the story. Include why you think they are important.</p>	
<p>Your Thoughts What do you think about the story? Did you like it? Why or why not?</p>	

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