

## **EIGHTH GRADE READING LIST FOR SUMMER: (for students who have just completed 7th grade)**

Over the summer, **you must read the following book:**

*Redwall*

*Fantasy/Adventure*

**by Brian Jacques**

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

This book is available in the Brevard County Library system, online at Amazon as a hard copy or as a Kindle. There will be a cross-curricular project assigned as soon as we return to school, so it is very important that the book be completed before school begins in August.

**You must also select ANY TWO of the following books** on this list (also available in the library, at Amazon, and in ebook formats) and read them during the summer. There will be AR testing done on these when we return so that we can determine some beginning reading strengths and interests. You should keep a running weekly book log (instructions and log attached) in order to track your progress.

*Beyond the Burning Time*

*Adventure/Historical*

**by Kathryn Lasky**

They say something very strange is happening to some of the people of Salem. That some of the young girls have become ... troubled. And the fear is beginning to spread. Mary and her mother don't hear about the rumors right away. They don't know that many of the villagers believe that some of Mary's friends have had spells cast on them -- by witches.

*Crazy Lady!*

*Social/Contemporary*

**by Jane Leslie Conly**

Receiving less and less attention from his widowed father, Vernon joins with his friends as they ridicule the neighborhood outcasts -- Maxine, an alcoholic prone to public displays of outrageous behavior, and Ronald, her retarded son. Then social services tries to put Ronald into a special home, and Vernon finds himself fighting the agency.

*The Man Who Was Poe*

*Horror*

**by Avi**

In Providence, Rhode Island, in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of 11-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

*Social/Classic*

**by Harper Lee**

Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and unswerving honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

*Z for Zachariah*

*Science Fiction*

**by Robert C. O'Brien**

Ann Burden is 16 and, as far as she knows, the only person left in the world. The nuclear radiation that destroyed the rest of the world has not touched the valley where she lives, and so she has remained, surviving as best she knows how, for the past year. Then, the smoke from a distant campfire shatters Ann's solitude. Someone else is still alive and making his way toward the valley.

*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

*Sci Fi/Comedy*

Arthur Dent wakes on a perfectly normal day only to find his home is about to be destroyed by a large yellow bulldozer to make way for a highway. Not much later, he finds that the Earth is about to be destroyed by large yellow bulldozer like things hovering in space to make way for an inter-galactic highway. He also discovers that his best friend isn't at all from Earth, things are almost never as they seem, and that life, the universe, and everything can be boiled down to a simple piece of advice, "always carry a towel, and don't panic." .

## **BOOK LOG INSTRUCTIONS:**

**You must read a little bit every day** (I realize that on some days that little bit may be only five or ten minutes before bedtime...that's fine).

At the end of each week, **you must log in how many minutes you read each week** on the attached reading log. **Only do this once per week.**

You should **fill out how much you read, what the title of book is, the author's name, the style of book and the number of pages completed that week.**

Then, **have your parent sign off on each week** as witnesses to your reading.

You should be able to tell them something about the book as well as answer the following questions about the book: **(just tell them about it, there is no need to write this)**

**What is the setting?**

**Who are the main characters?**

**Do you like the book? Why or why not?**

**By the end of the summer, you should have a reading log for each of the 10 weeks we have off.**

This isn't meant to stress you out; it's meant to keep your skills sharp and to give you a chance to enjoy some nice stories. Reading is one of the most valuable things that a student can do to keep our brains active and engaged in the learning process; it's like doing push-ups for your mind!

### **Helpful Hints and Awesome Advice:**

**Take twenty minutes** before bedtime as your reading time. Read in the car (if you can) while you're driving to fun summer activities. Don't read while surfing...that's dangerous. Read while waiting for friends to come to your house. Read while standing in line at Disney; don't read on Space Mountain...too dark. Read wherever you can... **just read.**

SUMMER READING LOG:

Date: Title: Author:  
Style: Pages Read:  
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