

ESK 8th Grade Summer Reading List 2017-2018

Students are expected to read at least four books. Students are required to read **two** core novels, *The Giver* and *I Am Malala*, select **one** of the following books: **Green Glass Sea**, **Boys in the Boat**, or **Unbroken** (YA edition), and **one** book of their choice. The summer reading is to be completed before returning to school in August. Ms. Lancaster will post a copy of the summer reading assignment in RenWeb Resource Documents.

The Required Core Novels:

Lois Lowry *The Giver*

Jonas's world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear of pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. When Jonas turns 12 he is singled out to receive special training from The Giver. The Giver alone holds the memories of the true pain and pleasure of life. Now, it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. There is no turning back.

Malala Yousafzai *I Am Malala*: The remarkable biographical tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. Malala went on to become the youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Required 3rd Novel Options:

Laura Hillenbrand *Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption (YA Version)* A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

Ellen Klages *Green Glass Sea*

1943, and eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp while her father works on the Manhattan Project. Dewey becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

Daniel Brown *The boys in the boat : nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*

The story of 1936 the University of Washington's eight-oar crew, composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers who had mastered collegiate rowing, went on to the Berlin Olympics where they defeated Adolf Hitler's German team to achieve the Olympic gold medal.

Suggested Titles:**Alexander Kwame *The Crossover***

The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. Poet Kwame Alexander has the swagger and cool confidence of a star player and the finesse of a perfectly in-control ball-handler. He uses wordplay and alliteration roll out like hip-hop lyrics, and the use of concrete forms and playful font changes keep things dynamic.

Kristin Levine *The Lions of Little Rock*

Twelve-year-old Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl in school, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

Robert F. Kennedy *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*

During the thirteen days in October 1962 when the United States confronted the Soviet Union over its installation of missiles in Cuba, few people shared the behind-the-scenes story as it is told here by the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. In this unique account, he describes the participants during the hour-to-hour negotiations, with particular attention to the actions and views of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

Steve Sheinkin *The Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

Jerry Spinelli *Stargirl*

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Deborah Wiles *Countdown*

It's 1962, and it seems everyone is living in fear. Eleven-year-old Franny Chapman can feel the fear of the nation in the days surrounding the Cuban Missile Crisis. Amid the pervading threat of nuclear war, Franny must face family tensions, figure out where she fits in, and look beyond outward appearances.

Veronica Roth *Divergent*

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

Louisa May Alcott *Little Women*

A timeless story following the lives of the four March sisters—pretty Meg, tomboy Jo, shy Beth, and vain Amy—as they grow into young ladies in 19th century New England.

