Grade 8 Summer Reading Project  
Mrs. Smith

Each 8th grade student is required to read one book from the summer reading list and to report on the book using the attached Summer Reading Assignment Sheets. The assignment is to be completed by the student and will count as part of the first quarter average. A variety of books have been chosen to meet the interest and reading ranges of all students. Students should choose a book they have not read prior to this summer.

DUE DATE: Thursday, September 19th, 2013—This allows for students to stay 10th period to get extra help and ask questions. However, students who don't have a good understanding of the book by the start of the school year will struggle to complete the project on time. Students should read the book over the summer and make sure they remember what happened in the story (saying you read the book but can't remember it isn’t going to help you).

Book Choices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More than one copy available—The books in this column are the ones you need to write on your choice list</th>
<th>Good books—but the school doesn’t have multiple copies, so if you want one from this list, you will need to sign it out from a library or purchase one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, by J.K. Rowling</td>
<td>Every Soul a Star, by Wendy Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Moonlight Man, by Betty Ren Wright</td>
<td>No More Dead Dogs, by Gordan Korman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Things Not Seen, by Andrew Clements</td>
<td>Gifted, by Beth Evangelista</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hidden Talents, by David Lubar</td>
<td>Holes, by Louis Sachar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flip, by David Lubar</td>
<td>Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment, by James Patterson (book one in the series only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legend, by Marie Lu</td>
<td>Uglies, by Scott Westerfeld (book one in the series only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering Blue, by Lois Lowry</td>
<td>Midnight for Charlie Bone, by Jenny Nimmo (book one in the series only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love Among the Walnuts, by Jean Ferris</td>
<td>Stormbreaker, by Anthony Horowitz (book one in the series only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everything on a Waffle, by Polly Horvath</td>
<td>The People of Sparks, by Jeanne DuPrau (book two in the City of Ember series only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Fudge, by Judy Blume</td>
<td>Soul Surfer, by Bethany Hamilton (contains Christian aspects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crash, by Jerry Spinelli</td>
<td>Flipped, by Wendlin Van Draanen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schooled, by Gordon Korman</td>
<td>Any book from the Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercy on These Teenage Chimps, by Gary Soto</td>
<td>Any book from The Hunger Games series, by Suzanne Collins (some mature content)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian’s Winter, by Gary Paulsen</td>
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<td>Tex, by S.E. Hinton</td>
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<td>The Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty, by Ellen Emerson White</td>
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<td>My Brother Sam is Dead, by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Part One: Major Conflict

Directions: Look for the biggest conflict (problem) in the book. Describe the type of conflict it is; explain the conflict using specific text details, and then tell how the conflict is resolved. If it isn't resolved, explain why the problem didn't get fixed. (Conflicts: person vs. person, person vs. self, person vs. society, person vs. fate, person vs. nature, person vs. supernatural, person vs. machine)

Conflict

Person vs. _____________________

Explain the conflict using specific text details. (Complete sentences)

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Explain how the conflict is resolved. If it isn't resolved, explain why the problem can't be solved. (Complete sentences)

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**Part Two: Characters**

Directions: Fill in the graphic organizer below with three characters from your book. Explain a trait each character has and provide SPECIFIC text details that support the trait.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Trait (Personality)</th>
<th>Specific part of the text that shows they have this trait (explain in your own words and complete sentences)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Pages __________:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pages __________:</td>
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Part Three: Themes

Directions: Think of three THEMES (morals, messages, lessons) that you can find in the book. I gave you a list of possible themes, but you can think of your own themes if you would like. Write these themes in the chart below and use specific text details to explain how the author teaches these themes.

THEME: (Possible themes: Don’t judge someone until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes. People are more than they seem. Courage and strength can overcome many obstacles. If at first you don’t succeed, try again. A little kindness goes a long way. Be true to your friends. Think before you act. It’s the little things in life that matter most. Your attitude has the biggest impact on your life. Everyone deserves a second chance. What goes around comes around. Be true to yourself. Never give up. Be careful what you wish for.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Text details that show this theme (explain in your own words and complete sentences)</th>
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Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Fantasy/Magic) 20+ copies 309 pages
by J.K. Rowling

Say you've spent the first 10 years of your life sleeping under the stairs of a family who loathes you. Then, in an absurd, magical twist of fate you find yourself surrounded by wizards, a caged snowy owl, a phoenix-feather wand, and jellybeans that come in every flavor, including strawberry, curry, grass, and sardine. Not only that, but you discover that you are a wizard yourself! This is exactly what happens to young Harry Potter in J.K. Rowling's enchanting, funny debut novel, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. In the nonmagic human world--the world of "Muggles"--Harry is a nobody, treated like dirt by the aunt and uncle who begrudgingly inherited him when his parents were killed by the evil Voldemort. But in the world of wizards, small, skinny Harry is famous as a survivor of the wizard who tried to kill him. He is left only with a lightning-bolt scar on his forehead, curiously refined sensibilities, and a host of mysterious powers to remind him that he's quite, yes, altogether different from his aunt, uncle, and spoiled cousin Dudley.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging

The Moonlight Man (Ghost Story) 10 copies 192 pages
by Betty Ren Wright

A neighborhood with a dark secret greets a family with a tragic past in this critically acclaimed ghost story. Since their mother died, fifteen-year-old Jenny Joslin and her little sister, Allie, have moved seven times with their father, who is trying to put the past behind them. Jenny finally feels at home when she sees their new house in the woods. . . until a restless young man appears on the back porch. Handsome, silent, mysterious - he can only be seen in the dark. He doesn't respond to Jenny's voice. And he will not leave until he gets what he came for. Now it's up to Jenny to figure out who he is - and why he is haunting the residents of Crescent Lane. They all seem so innocent. But are they?

Reading Level: Average

Things Not Seen (Fantasy/Science Fiction) 30+ library copies 272 pages
by Andrew Clements

Fifteen-year-old Bobby thinks he knows what it's like to be invisible—he's used to being ignored by the popular kids at school (especially the girls). Even his parents hardly seem to notice whether he's home or not. Then one morning, Bobby wakes up to find that he IS invisible. For real. He can't stop wondering if he'll ever reappear—especially when his parents wreck their car and wind up in the hospital. Now Bobby is all alone. How can he survive in a world where he can't be seen? One thing's for sure: Bobby's not going to just wait around to see if his body will decide to show up again on its own. He's got to take action. Fast.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging
13-year-old Martin winds up at Edgeview, a publicly funded boarding school and a last-chance alternative. Martin, who narrates, doesn't seem like a delinquent, but he just can't stop himself from taunting his teachers. By the end of his first day he has infuriated the whole staff. Edgeview Alternative School represents the end of the line for Martin Anderson. He's been kicked out of every school in his district, and feels more than a little skeptical about making a new start in this lonely, gray place. Still, he begins to establish tentative friendships with his pyromaniac roommate, Torchie, and a few of the other kids. They band together to form some small wall of protection against the school's most disturbed bully, Lester Bloodbath. Soon, Martin suspects that his friends are far more than ordinary misfits.

Reading Level: Average

If you could become anyone in the world, who would you be? Did you ever wish you could be anyone else but who you are? Twins Ryan and Taylor do it all the time. Now their dream is about to come true. They've discovered mysterious alien disks that allow them to "flip"—to become legendary heroes from the past. But who? When properly "flipped," each disk temporarily fuses into the palm and projects into the person the abilities and knowledge of a "legend" from the past. Ryan's first try turns him into Babe Ruth, and he wows his classmates with home runs and hot-dog eating. He goes on to become Albert Einstein, Elvis Presley, and Queen Victoria. The results get him into even more trouble than he's used to and makes his already tense relationship with his perfectionist father worse. His sister is a straight-A student and much less eager to take risks; she spends most of her energy trying to keep her brother out of trouble.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging

What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths—until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets. Full of nonstop action, suspense, and romance, this novel is sure to move readers as much as it thrills.

Reading Level: Challenging
Gathering Blue  (Companion Novel to The Giver)  15 copies  215 pages
by Lois Lowry

This eagerly awaited companion volume to The Giver takes place in a village with only the most basic technology, where anger, greed, envy, and casual cruelty make ordinary people's lives short and rough. This society, like the one portrayed in The Giver, is controlled by merciless authorities with their own complex agendas and secrets. Kira, newly orphaned and lame from birth, is taken from the turmoil of the village to live in the grand Council Edifice because of her skill at embroidery. There she is given the task of restoring the historical pictures sewn on the robe worn at the annual Ruin Song Gathering, a solemn day-long performance of the story of their world's past. Down the hall lives Thomas the Carver, a young boy who works on the intricate symbols carved on the Singer's staff, and a tiny girl who is being trained as the next Singer. Over the three artists hovers the menace of authority, seemingly kind but suffocating to their creativity, and the dark secret at the heart of the Ruin Song.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging

Love Among the Walnuts (Comedy)  10 copies  216 pages
by Jean Ferris

Sandy is an innocent sheltered sort, homeschooled by his cheerful millionaire parents. Home is a mansion next door to an Asylum. Sandy Huntington-Ackerman's life becomes increasingly complicated when his bungling, moneygrubbing uncles try to shanghai the family fortune by poisoning a birthday cake. Luckily, those conniving uncles can't do anything right. Instead of bumping off the whole family, they put Sandy's parents--and their pet chicken--into mysterious comas. Sandy joins forces with his loyal butler and a wise and wacky nurse to save his parents and squelch his uncles' felonious high jinks.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging

Everything on a Waffle (Comedy)  15 copies  150 pages
by Polly Horvath

Primrose Squarp simply knows her parents did not perish at sea during a terrible storm, but try convincing the other residents of Coal Harbour on that score. For all practical purposes, at least for the time being, Primrose is an orphan, and there's no great clamoring of prospective adopters. After realizing the impracticality of continuing to pay Miss Perfidy (a mothball-scented elderly lady) an hourly wage to baby-sit her, the town council is able to locate a relative, Uncle Jack, who reluctantly takes Primrose into his care. Primrose does warm up to living with him and in his home, despite the eerie noises resembling a hockey game that haunt her in the night. But true sanctuary can always be found at a restaurant called The Girl in the Swing, where everything—including lasagna—is served on a waffle, and where the proprietor, Miss Bowzer, offers a willing ear, as well as sage advice. Through a mixture of eccentric humor and probing philosophy, author Polly Horvath makes Primrose's search for peace and understanding a most memorable one.

Reading Level: Average
Double Fudge (Comedy)  15 copies       213 pages
by Judy Blume

Twelve-year-old Peter thinks his money-loving brother, Fudge, is a pain. But life gets really crazy when Fudge and Peter run into their long-lost relatives, the Howie Hatchers. Now they have to deal with annoying twin cousins and a weird younger cousin, coincidentally named Farley Drexel Hatcher—just like Fudge! Their names aren't the only similarity, and before long, mini-Fudge is causing just as much trouble as Fudge always has!

Reading Level: Easy

Crash (Realistic Fiction/Sports)  12 copies       176 pages
by Jerry Spinelli

Ever since first grade "Crash" Coogan has been tormenting dweeby Penn Ward, a skinny vegetarian Quaker boy who lives in a tiny former garage with his aged parents. Now that they're in seventh grade, Penn becomes an even better target: not only does Penn still wear outdated used clothes, he joins the cheerleading squad. But even though Crash becomes the school's star football player and wears the most expensive togs from the mall, he still can't get what Penn has--his parents' attention and the admiration of the most gorgeous girl in school. Then his beloved grandfather, Scooter, is severely disabled by a stroke, and Crash's life is turned upside down.

Reading Level: Easy-Average

Schooled (Realistic Fiction)  17 copies (library has a few more)   208 pages
by Gordan Korman

Homeschooled on an isolated "alternate farm commune" that has dwindled since the 1960s to two members, 13-year-old Cap has always lived with his grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent—like a lamb to slaughter—to middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced (he learned to drive on the farm, but he has never watched television), long-haired Cap soon becomes the butt of pranks. He reacts in unexpected ways and, in the end, elevates those around him to higher ground.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging—changes perspectives each chapter

Mercy on These Teenage Chimps (Realistic Fiction/Comedy)  50+ copies  147 pages
by Gary Soto

On his thirteenth birthday, Ronnie woke up feeling like a chimp—all long armed, big eared, and gangly. Now his best friend, Joey, has turned thirteen, too—and after Joey humiliates himself in front of a cute girl, he climbs a tree and refuses to come down. So Ronnie sets out to woo the girl on Joey's behalf. After all, teenage chimps have to stick together.

Reading Level: Easy-Average
Brian's Winter (Realistic Fiction—very little dialogue—follows a hunter through a winter alone)
by Gary Paulsen 20+ copies 133 pages

Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book "Hatchet," this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the Canadian wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging (easier for those who hunt and know about wilderness survival)

Tex (Realistic Fiction) 20+ copies 191 pages
by S.E. Hinton

Easygoing, thoughtless, and direct, Tex at fifteen likes everyone and everything, especially his horse and Johnny Collins's blue-eyed sister, Jamie. He thinks life with his seventeen-year-old brother, Mason, in their ramshackle house would be just about perfect if only Mace would stop complaining about Pop. Pop hasn't been home in five months. Mace wants to get out of Oklahoma. Tex just seems to attract trouble and danger . . . Suddenly everything's falling apart. Can Tex keep it all together?

Reading Level: Average

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town (Realistic Fiction) 13 copies 227 pages
by Kimberly Willis Holt

Nothing ever happens in Toby's small Texas town. Nothing much, that is, until this summer. This summer, everyone seems to be leaving. Toby's mother leaves home to be a country singer. His best friend Cal's older brother goes off to fight in Vietnam. But their sleepy town is about to get a jolt with the arrival of Zachary Beaver, billed as the fattest boy in the world. There has never been anyone like Zachary. Toby is enthralled with him and his tales of the people and places he's known. In fact, Toby realizes, there's a lot this town has never seen. Toby knows there's more to Zachary than the stories he tells, and he wants to know the boy behind the billing. Toby is in for a summer unlike any other, a summer sure to change his life.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging

The Boy Who Dared (Realistic Fiction/History—WWII) 10 copies (library has a few more) 165 pages
by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Just as the Nazis are rising to power, Helmut Hubener, a German schoolboy, is caught up in all the swashbuckling bravado of his time. The handsome storm trooper uniforms, the shiny jackboots and armbands, the rousing patriotism - all serve to draw him into this bright new world full of promise and hope. In the beginning, Helmut's patriotism is unwavering. But every day the rights of people all over Germany are diminishing. Jews are threatened and their businesses are being destroyed, the truth has been censored, and danger lurks everywhere. Anybody can turn on you. The world has turned upside down: Patriotism means denouncing others, love means to hate, and speaking out means treason. Silence becomes everyone's guilty secret. How much longer can Helmut keep silent? Now Helmut sits in a German prison, awaiting his precarious fate. Told in flashback with breathtaking suspense, this homage to an extraordinary real life hero magnificently explores one person's responsibility to humanity, freedom, and truth.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging (difficult if you don’t have any background knowledge on WWII)-
The Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty (Realistic Fiction/History—Vietnam War) 20+ copies 168 pages by Ellen Emerson White

Patrick is a Marine stationed in Vietnam. He writes a journal of his experiences at Khe Sanh, during one of the worst battles of the Vietnam War. His journal describes the living conditions of the soldiers, the friendships the soldiers form, and how challenging it is to fight an enemy they can’t see.

Reading Level: Challenging (a bit easier if you have background knowledge of the Vietnam War and military language)

Where Have All the Flowers Gone (Realistic Fiction/History—Vietnam War) 20+ copies 172 pages by Ellen Emerson White

While her brother Patrick is fighting in the Vietnam War, Molly is fighting on the home front to end the war in Vietnam and bring her brother home. She describes what it is like to live during the 1960s as a family member of a soldier. She also examines topics, such as Civil Rights and hippies, all while trying to manage the day-to-day life of going to high school and growing up.

Reading Level: Easy-Average (easier if you have background knowledge of the Vietnam War and the 1960’s)

My Brother Sam is Dead (Realistic Fiction/History—Revolutionary War) 20+ copies 240 pages by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier

The American Revolution was a war that divided families (English loyalists versus eager Patriots) and one of the families being torn apart is the Meeker family. Young Tim sees his 16-year-old brother join the militia to fight the British, while his father tries to remain loyal to the crown. Their hometown of Redding Ridge, Connecticut is a Tory town, and it is a constant struggle for the family to remain neutral. As the war progresses, Tim has to learn some very hard lessons: Life does not always follow the easiest and happiest course.

Reading Level: Average-Challenging (easier if you have background knowledge of the Revolutionary War)

Name:__________________________________________ (First and Last Name Please)
Choice One:______________________________________
Choice Two:______________________________________
Choice Three:_____________________________________
Homeroom:______________________________________