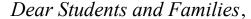
and Middle School Summer Reading 2018 Kising 8th Graders



Summer reading helps build fluency, background knowledge, and vocabulary. Summer break often means a break from reading, which can seriously hamper achievement in the classroom. There is a solid link between the amount of independent reading children do and their success in school.

Research shows that kids who never crack open a book during the summer often fall behind in

reading – the notorious "summer slide" – while kids who *do* read, maintain or improve their learning skills.

The Scoop for 8th Grade: Read 3 books at your appropriate reading level – Lexile range.

- One of the books must be a book from the <u>current</u> Grades 6-8 Sunshine State Young Readers Award book list.
- Two are **free choice**, but we have some suggestions of "lit" books to read.



Due Date:

Friday, September 7, 2018: Due date for Summer Reading work.

The Assignment:

Reading Response Questions: For each book read, students will answer two
reading response questions. Each question is worth up to 5 points, for a total of 30
points. There is a high-quality sample response attached to this assignment.

The Books:

We have attached several book lists – these are all high-quality books that appeal to a wide range of interests. We firmly believe becoming a reader is just a matter of getting the right book into your hands.

Reading Response Questions (Total: 30 pts.) You must answer two of the following hany each book, for a total of six responses. You may not use the same question twice!! Please include the question number, book title and author in your answers. Each responses will contain a topic sentence that restates the question, at least two specific, quoted details from the novel – with page numbers – that support your response, commentary and a concluding sentence. A high-quality response with text evidence will be at least 10 sentences long. Responses may be neatly handwritten or typed on a computer. Note: If a question doesn't apply to your book, don't use it. For example, don't choose No. 10 if you have no unanswered questions. ©

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QUESTIONS for FICTION BOOKS

- 1. If you could be related to a character, who would it be and why?
- 2. Compare your book to another by the same author or of the same genre. What is similar? Different?
- 3. Did the actions of the characters seem believable? Why? Why not? Provide text evidence to back it up.
- 4. If one (or more) of the characters made a choice that had moral implications, would you have made the same decision? Why? Why not?
- 5. Why did the author choose the title? How does it fit the book? What title would YOU have chosen?
- 6. If this book was to be made into a movie, choose five main scenes and explain why you chose them.
- 7. What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story?
- 8. What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think he or she is trying to get across to the reader?
- 9. How do characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger the changes?
- 10. What unanswered, unresolved questions still remain and how would you answer them in a sequel?
- 11. What motivates the actions of a given character? To what degree does the character's past play a role in her present actions? Are those actions justified or ethical?
- 12. What is the central conflict of the plot? Is the conflict internal (a psychological conflict)? Or is it external? Character vs. character? Character vs. society? Character vs. nature? How did the conflict resolve?
- 13. Name three figurative language devices (personification, metaphor, imagery, etc.) and cite examples from your novel. Include the page numbers.
- 14. Choose a color for this book and explain why it fits the story.
- 15. Choose a character and decide on two appropriate birthday presents for him/her and tell why.

QUESTIONS for NON-FICTION BOOKS or INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

- 1. What are five important facts you learned from reading this book? Explain why you consider them important.
- 2. What parts of this book seem most/least believable? Why?
- 3. What confuses you in this book? Give at least two examples and explain your confusion.
- 4. How do statistics and data support the author's perspective? Give at least two examples and explain.
- 5. What new information did you learn? How did this new information change your way of thinking?
- 6. What words, phrases or statements does the author use that caught your attention? Why? How did they make you feel? What did they make you think?
- 7. Did the author weave opinion and fact statements into the book? Find two examples of each. Were there any photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, or diagrams that were important? Select three and describe what you learned from them and explain why you believe each one was important. Be sure to list the page numbers.
 - 8. Did the reading leave you with unanswered questions? What are these? List three or more. Explain why these questions are important to you.
 - 9. How did you connect to the subject/topic of the book? Was it personal? Was it an issue that affects your community and the world? Explain.

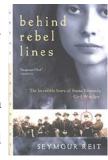
Sample 8th Grade Summer Reading Response Entry

(As you can see, it is <u>much longer</u> than the required minimum of 10 sentences. ©)

Title: Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy Author: Seymour Reit

Question No. 11:

This nonfiction book reads like a made-up adventure, but the actions of Franklin Thompson are those of a real-life hero motivated by love of country and anger over the loss of so many innocent lives in war. Thompson was incredibly tough, thoroughly patriotic and very reckless. He needed all those qualities in his job: a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War. He undertook many dangerous missions disguised as a variety of characters ranging from a black slave named Cuff to an old Irish peddler woman. Thompson was reckless and a risk-taker. The most important evidence of his reckless side? Thompson was actually a 21year-old woman named Emma Edmonds. That's right. Edmonds disguised herself as a man in order to serve her country. Edmonds



calls this reckless spirit the "imp voice" (p. 42). The longer Edmonds is disguised as Private Franklin Thompson, the bolder the voice grows (p. 28). The first time the imp voice speaks is after her friend is killed,

calls this reckless spirit the "imp voice" (p. 42). The longer Edmonds is disguised as Private Franklin Thompson, the bolder the voice grows (p. 28). The first time the imp voice speaks is after her friend is killed, and she decides she must avenge his death by becoming a spy and stealing secrets from the Confederate Army. In her first mission she disguises herself as a black slave, coloring her skin with silver nitrate and wearing a wig of black hair. He slipped into the enemy camp, gathered up secrets about how much artillery they had and where it was positioned and then managed to sneak out again without being discovered: "Catlike and silent, he slipped through the night, knowing that any sudden noise would bring a dozen shots crashing in his direction" (p. 58).

Edmonds balanced her reckless side with a toughness and determination. Even when fear crept in, she went on mission after mission. In one scene she sits with a dying soldier in an abandoned house, determined not to leave his side even though she might be captured. She uses her nursing skills to make him as comfortable as possible and when he dies, she vows to grant his dying wish and get a letter to his family no matter what (p. 72). Edmonds' patriotic motivation is rewarded by her superior officers, who are delighted with her successes (p. 83).

Edmonds' past does play a role in her motivations. Though Edmonds herself describes herself as a lover of adventure and ambitious, she says her "patriotism was the true secret of my success" (p. 1). Born in Canada, Edmonds left home at 16 to escape her abusive father. She settled in Flint, Michigan. For Edmonds, America stands for freedom and liberty and now that America was in danger and a war starting, she needed to take action (p. 6). After she had served in the war and seen how brutal and cruel it was, she still believed in the cause: the Union had to survive. "For her, that was all that mattered" (p. 74).

Sunshine State Young Reader Award Books 2018-2019

Click'd by Tamara Ireland Stone. Allie invents Click'd, a friend pairing app. A glitch threatens to reveal private information, and Allie must work fast in the school computer lab to find a fix. Can Allie fix her app, win back her friends and get it ready for Games for Good?

A Crack in the Sea by H.M. Bouwman. A portal between two worlds opens unexpectedly. Those who travel to the second world find solace, but the Raft King wants to change all of that. Relating the tales of three sets of siblings who endure hardships, experience magic, adventures on the sea, and an enchanting second world.

Curse of the Boggin by DJ Machale. There's a place beyond this world where spirits tell their tales. It's a place for unexplainable things: mysteries without solutions, ghosts and a boggin. Marcus and his friends have found the key to unlock the Library and they need to use it. A strange man in a bathrobe haunts them; fires rage out in

an instant, a creepy old lady shows up at Marcus's house.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya. Arturo lives in Miami playing basketball and working a few shifts at his Abuela's restaurant. When he meets Carmen, a young girl who moves into Arturo's apartment complex, his stomach is in knots. On top of the problems with his new crush, his town is being threatened by a land developer. With the help of Carmen and the book of poetry of Jose Marti left by his grandfather, Arturo discovers family bonds and community are stronger than ever.

The Eureka Key by Sarah Thomson. When middle school puzzle master Sam and history wiz Martina win a contest for a summer trip across the US, they discover they've been drafted into something vastly more extraordinary. Joining another kid on the trip, Theo, a descendant of George Washington himself, they must follow clues to find seven keys left behind by the Founding Fathers.

The Firefly Code by Megan Frazer Blakemore. Up until a new girl, Ilana, moves to Firefly Lane, Mori and her friends lived a normal life in their their utopian community. Questions arise about the new girl. Where Ilana says she comes from doesn't add up and her behavior is strange. Once they discover the truth they must make tough decisions about their seemingly perfect world.

First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Perez. Punk rocker, Zine maker, Mariá Luisa is moving to Chicago with her Mexican-American mother and starting 7th grade in a new school. When she begins her first day with a rebellious start, she needs to figure out how she'll fit in and still hold on to her unique character.

Forest of Wonders by Linda Sue Park. Raffa Santana has always loved the mysterious Forest of Wonders. For a gifted young apothecary, every leaf has the potential to unleash a kind of magic. If only Raffa's father would allow him to

Forest of Wonders by Linda Sue Park. Raffa Santana has always loved the mysterious Forest of Wonders. For a gifted young apothecary, every leaf has the potential to unleash a kind of magic. If only Raffa's father would allow him to experiment freely.

Frogkisser! by Garth Nix Poor Princess Anya! Forced to live with her evil stepmother's new husband, her evil stepfather, has the unfortunate ability to break curses with magic kisses, AND now forced to go on the run when her stepfather decides to make the kingdom entirely his own. She is not alone, aided by a loyal talking dog and a boy thief trapped in the body of a newt.



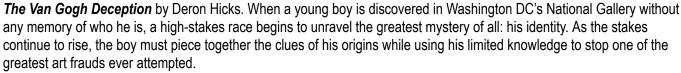
Ghost by Jason Reynolds Running. That's all that Castle Cranshaw aka Ghost has ever known. But never for a track team. His game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: natural talent.

The Girl Who Could Not Dream by Sarah Beth Durst. Sophie loves the hidden shop below her parents' bookstore, where dreams are secretly bought and sold. When the dream shop is robbed and her parents go

missing, Sophie must unravel the truth to save them. *How Lunchbox Jones Saved me from Robots, Traitors and Missy the Cruel* by Jennifer Brown. Video game-loving Luke Abbott has no interest in joining his school robotics team. For one, he really doesn't know much about robotics. Two, the team has a record of losing. And three, his arch nemesis Missy the Cruel and the scary Lunchbox Jones are both on the team!

Restart by Gordon Korman Chase wakes up from a fall off the roof not knowing who he is. When he returns to school, the students know exactly who he is, or at least, who he was. Some of the students act like he is a hero, some seem scared of him, and one utterly despises him. Chase is faced with having to figure out not only who he was, but who he wants to be.

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Julia might be short, but she refuses to let her height be her shortcoming. Encouraged by her mother to audition for the musical The Wizard of Oz, Julia quickly falls in love with the world of theater and all its characters. Over the course of the summer, Julia discovers talents she didn't know she had, forms unlikely friendships, and finds a second home in the theater



Suggested 8th Grade Dystopian Books

** If you enjoyed books from the Hunger Games, Maze Runner or Divergent series **

The Adoration of Jenna Fox by Mary E. Pearson (570L, 288 p.). Jenna Fox wakes from a coma more than a year after having an "accident." With no memory, she slowly learns to function physically, but she can't seem to connect emotionally. Jenna begins to recognize that a secret is being kept from her and something complex and dangerous is going on.

- Ashes by Ilsa J. Bick (730L, 496 p.). While Alex hiked into the woods, an electromagnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions. Now desperate to find out what happened after the pulse crushes her to the ground, Alex meets up with a young soldier and a girl whose grandfather was killed by the pulse. Survival is now a question of who can be trusted and who is no longer human.
- The Cure by Stephanie Erickson (258 p.). "One life will make the difference." Macey Holsinger has heard that promise for as long as she can remember. But it hasn't saved anyone yet, not even her little brother. Little is known about the disease, except that it's a rapid and absolute killer. Why is the quest for a cure reason enough to ban things like flags and freedom of expression? In the end, how much will the cure cost?
- **Delirium** by Lauren Oliver (760L, 480 p.). It's the near future, a time when love has long since been identified as a disease, and 17-year-old Lena is 95 days away from the operation that everyone gets to cure themselves. Enter Alex, a rakish daredevil who, as it turns out, is one of the Invalids—a tribe of uncured outlaws. With the clock ticking down, Lena is drawn into Alex's world, one of passion and freedom.
- The Drowned Cities by Paolo Baciagalupi (690L, 464 p.). In a dark, future America, Mahlia and Mouse have managed to leave behind the wartorn lands of the Drowned Cities by escaping into the jungle outskirts. But when they discover a wounded half-man who is being hunted by a vengeful band of soldiers, their fragile existence quickly collapses. One is taken prisoner and the other is faced with an impossible decision: Risk everything to save a friend, or flee to a place that holds the possibility of freedom.
- The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer (660L, 400 p.). Readers will be hooked from the first page of this award-winning book in which a scientist brings to life one of 36 tiny cells, frozen more than 100 years ago. The result is Matt, a clone of El Patron, a powerful drug lord. El Patron is ruler of Opium, a country that lies between the United States and Mexico. With smooth pacing that steadily gathers momentum, Matt learns what being a clone of one of the most powerful and feared men on earth entails.
- *Immurement* by Norma Hinkens (261 p.). Sixteen-year-old Derry and her brother live in perpetual fear of capture. They survive underground on a scorched earth overrun by gangs, clones, and mysterious hover ships. When her brother goes missing, Derry's only hope of finding him is to strike a deal with a group of cutthroat subversives. A captivating apocalyptic tale with plot twists you won't see coming.
- Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness (860L, 496 p.). Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog. With hostile men in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent

Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but he knows that the town is hiding something from him -- something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog. With hostile men in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Readers are in for a white-knuckle journey.

- Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (900L; 416 p.). While skipping school, 17-year-old techno-geek Markus is caught near the site of a terrorist attack on San Francisco and held by the Department of Homeland Security for six days of intensive interrogation. After his release, he vows to use his skills to fight back against an increasingly frightening system of surveillance and stage a techno-revolution.
- *Pure* by Julianna Baggott (480 p.). Pressia sleeps in a cabinet behind the rubble of a barbershop with her grandfather. She barely remembers the Detonations or much about life during the Before. And now, at an age when everyone is required to become a soldier or, worse, a live target, Pressia is on the run. Partridge is a Pure one who escaped the apocalypse unmarked. Yet Partridge feels isolated and lonely. So when a slipped phrase suggests his mother might still be alive, Partridge risks his life to find her.
- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline (990L, 384 p.). In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue to solving the puzzle, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill. If Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win.
- Sacrificed by Emily Wibberly (NA, 350 p.). Born to serve the merciless Oracle, Clio wants nothing more than to break free. But when her entire family is murdered by Mannix, the king's adviser, Clio inherits the Oracle's power, a power she never wanted and doesn't understand. Hunted by Mannix, Clio is forced to flee her home. If she's found out, she will be sacrificed atop its great pyramid.
- The Sea Wreck Stranger by Anna Mackenzie (198 p.) The community of Dunnett Island has turned its back on the sea and all that comes from it. Orphaned Ness questions the harshness of their lives and finds beauty in a world her elders would drain of joy. When a dead body washed ashore in the tiny bay below their farm, certainties of their lives begin to unravel. Award-winning first book in a trilogy.
- Shade's Children by Garth Nix (980L, 368 p.) In the brutal world of Shade's Children, your 14th birthday is your last. Malevolent Overlords rule the earth, directing hideous, humanoid creatures to harvest the brains and muscles of teens for use in engineering foul beasts to fight senseless wars. Young Gold-Eye escapes this horrific fate, rescued by other refugees, but life is far from safe.
- Some Act of Vision by Lori Ann Stephens (296 p.) A massive Texas earthquake triggered by the fracking activity nearby tears apart Jordan's community. The Walker family survives the earthquake, but wake up the next morning utterly invisible. On the run from a military with nefarious plans, Jordan and her family are forced to flee.
- **Starters** by Lissa Price (550L, 384 p.) Callie lost her parents when the Spore Wars wiped out everyone between the ages of 20 and 60. She and her little brother go on the run, living as squatters and fighting off renegades.
- *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman (740L, 352 p.). A twisted and futuristic *New York Times* bestselling novel about a future where teens between the ages of 13 18 may be "unwound." Unwinding ensures that the child's life doesn't "technically" end by transplanting all the organs in the child's body to various recipients. Troublesome or unwanted teens are able to be unwound.

High-Interest Non-Fiction Books for Eighth Graders

100 Diagrams That Changed the World: From the Earliest Cave Paintings to the Invention of the iPod by Scott Christianson. A collection of the most important ideas, theories and concepts of all time



A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah. The autobiography of a boy who became a child soldier in Sierra Leone.

A Night to Remember: The Classic Account of the Final Hours of the Titanic by Walter Lord Amelia

Amelia Lost by Candace Fleming. The thrilling story of America's most celebrated flyer.

An American Plague by Jim Murphy. It's 1793 and the nation's capital and the largest city in North America – Philadelphia -- is devastated by an apparently incurable disease.

The Blind Side by Michael Lewis. Read the book behind the movie about the homeless Memphis ghetto kid Michael Oher.

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin. A compelling history of the atomic bomb.

* Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine and the Lawless Years of the Prohibition by Karen Blumenthal. Filled with period art and photographs, this fascinating book looks at the rise and fall of the disastrous social experiment known as Prohibition.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition) by William Kamkwamba. A memoir of the heroic young inventor who brought electricity to his Malawi village.

Can I See Your ID? True Stories of False Identities by Paul Hoppe. Ten mini-biographies of true crime, desperation, fraud, and adventure:

Can I See Your ID? True Stories of False Identities by Paul Hoppe. Ten mini-biographies of true crime, desperation, fraud, and adventure:

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson. A riveting account of the chase for Lincoln's assassin.

*Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food by Charles Wilson. What teens need to know about how the fast-food industry has been feeding off children for generations. # Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah. An engaging memoir of a girl growing up in 1940s China.

*# Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice by Phillip Hoose. Before Rosa Parks, a 15-year-old refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white woman in Montgomery, Alabama.

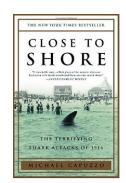
Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916 by Michael Capuzzo.

* # Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac. A 16-year-old Navajo boy served as a communications expert using unbreakable code based on Navajo language.

Electric Dreams by Caroline Kettlewell. An underdog team of educators, students and townsfolk in rural North Carolina design and build an electric car that wins a competition.

Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication by Ann

Downer. Biologists have determined that elephants use a complex system of communication of at least ten distinct sounds, combined in many variations. Researchers are now asking: what do these sounds mean?



Enrique's Journey (The Young Adult Adaptation): The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother (adapted for young people) by Sonia Nazario. A teen from Honduras sets off to find his mother in America.

- * Four Perfect Pebbles: A True Story of the Holocaust by Lila Perl. The Blumenthal family's story of horror and hardship during World War II.
- * Get Real: What Kind of World Are You Buying? by Mara Rockliff. A teen-friendly manifesto reveals what you are really buying with that cell phone or cheap T-shirt and how to make better choices for people and the planet.
- # Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case: by Chris Crowe. The tragic death of a 14-year-old black teen from Chicago visiting family in Mississippi was a rallying point for Civil Rights leaders such as Rosa Parks.

His Name Was Raoul Wallenberg by Louise Borden. Amazing World War II story about how one man saved the lives of many.

Hoop Dreams: True Story of Hardship and Triumph by Ben Jorvasky. The lives of 2 talented basketball players were chronicled for five years from playgrounds to high school to college recruitment.

HOOP DREAMS This book relays all the gory details of how nineteen world figures gave up the ghost.

* Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure by Jim Murphy. "Who knew the biography of a germ could be so fascinating?" – Kirkus Reviews, starred review.

Last Bus Out by Beck McDowell. True story of how a boy from the projects stole a bus and rescued more than 300 people in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Left for Dead: My Journey Home from Everest by Pete Nelson. Beck Weathers describes not only his escape from hypothermia and the murderous storm that killed eight climbers, but the journey of his life.

- * # Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration by Shelley Tougas. A short book about the power of a photograph to focus the world spotlight on the Civil Rights movement.
- * **Moonbird** by Phillip Hoose. With inspiring prose, thorough research, and stirring images, Hoose explores the tragedy of extinction through the triumph of a single bird.
 - * # October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard by Leslea Newman. A novel in verse, these 68 poems are a powerful tribute to Matthew Shepard's life.
 - * Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan. The book that launched a national

🐧 verse, these 68 poems are a powerful tribute to Matthew Shepard's life.

* Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan. The book that launched a national conversation about what we eat and the profound consequences that even the simplest everyday food choices have on both ourselves and the natural world

Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town (Adapted for Young People) by Warren St. John. A moving account of refugees finding a new life in the U.S. in Clarkston, Georgia and they inspired an entire community through soccer.

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science by John Fleishman. The story of a man who survived for 10 years after a 13-pound iron rod shot through his brain.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton. Stick Figure: A Diary of my Former Self by Lori Gottlieb. "A smart, funny, compassionate journal of the author's bout with anorexia at age 11" (Entertainment Weekly).

Super Graphic: A Visual Guide to the Comic Book Universe by Tim Leong. Through a collection of charts and graphics, the book offers a unique look at the intricate storylines that weave their way through comic books, and shares advice for navigating the pages of some of the most popular comics and graphic novels.

*# The Frog Scientist by Andy Comins and Pamela Turner. Being raised in segregated South Carolina didn't stop Tyrone Hayes from his passion for science. He ended up at Harvard and discovered a link between a common pesticide and the startling decline in frog populations all around the globe.

The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure by Martin Sandler. The dead of an Arctic winter. Whaling ships full of men, stranded in ice. Follow three rescuers in a race against time — and all odds — in this heartpounding true adventure. The Long Run: A New York City Firefighter's Triumphant Comeback from Crash Victim to Elite Athlete by Matt Long. On the morning of December 22, 2005, Matt Long was cycling to work in the early morning when he was struck by and sucked under a 20-ton bus making an illegal turn. The Long Run is an emotional and incredibly honest story about Matt's determination to fight through fear, despair, loneliness, and intense physical and psychological pain to regain the life of the elite athlete he once was. The President Has Been Shot by James Swanson

* *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer? *Truce* by Jim Murphy. In 1914, the world's peace was shattered in the First World War.But who could have guessed that on December 25 the troops would openly defy their commanding officers by stopping the fighting and having a spontaneous celebration of Christmas with their "enemies"?

Tuesday's With Morrie by Mitch Albom. The author seizes a chance to spend time with his former professor in the last months of the older man's life. The result is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

* Witches: the Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer. This book for young readers features unique scratchboard illustrations, chilling primary source material, and powerful narrative to tell the true tale. Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic. Published at the height of the Bosnian conflict, this international bestseller was compared to The Diary of Anne Frank. It begins as the typical journal of an 11-year-old girl living in Sarajevo, but as war engulfs her city, Zlata becomes witness to the horrors of hunger, death and violence.

* - Award-winning book

- Features minority characters



Recommendations from the "Guys Read" Website -- a web-based literacy program for boys founded by author Jon Scieszka -- come these next book recommendations. Mike Grosso is a middle school teacher, musician, and author of *I Am Drums*. He truly

believes reading lists rock. (And these are great for girls, too!)

- * My Near-Death Adventures (99% True!) by Alison DeCamp. Stan is the Man. This is one of few books that had me laughing out loud. The writing by itself makes for a fantastic story, but the defaced photographs throughout the book make this something much more special.
- * **The 8th Continent** by Matt London. Dude, it's a book series about two kids that take the world's garbage and turn it into an eighth continent. What's not to like? A great book for scientific-minded environmentalists.
- * <u>Hoodoo</u> by Ronald L. Smith. Take the eeriness of *The Last Apprentice* and put it in recession era rural Alabama. Ronald Smith is a master of setting and mood, and not an author to be read in the dark unless you're very brave.
- * <u>One Handed Catch</u> by Mary Jane Auch. My students get grossed out sometimes when I book talk this one, so I assure them the first chapter is well-handled to insure minimal vomiting. Plus, it's a book that gets kids thinking about what it means to be differently-abled.
- * **My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights** by Brooks Benjamin. A lot of boys don't want to dance. That will change after reading Brooks Benjamin's awesome book.

2017 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers Young Adult Library Services Association

- *Tell Me Three Things* by Julie Buxbaum. A mysterious admirer helps Jessie adjust to her new life in LA. Funny and romantic, this tug-at-your-heartstrings YA debut is perfect for readers of Rainbow Rowell.
- The Haters by Jesse Andrews. Teens ditch jazz camp and take it on the road in this novel from the author of the bestselling Me and Earl and the Dying Girl
- Exit, Pursued by a Bear by Johnston, E.K. Hermione is raped at cheer camp. In the year that follows, she deals with rumors, flashbacks, and a re-centering of her life.
- **Plutona** by Jeff Lemire. A group of teens finds the body of the superhero, Plutona, and must decide how to handle the situation.
- **Daughters Unto Devils** by Amy Lukavics. After a dreadful winter, Amanda and her family find a new home on the prairie. Unfortunately, the demon spirits are already waiting for them.
- Nijkamp, Marieke. This Is Where It Ends. A violent student with a grudge and a gun holds his classmates and teachers hostage.
- All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. Accused of shoplifting and resisting
 arrest, Rashad is beaten by a police officer. Racial tensions ignite, friends take sides and a
 community is divided.
- If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo. Amanda is facing a lot of challenges, but nothing is as big as starting over after being relentlessly bullied for her transgender identity.
- The Geek's Guide to Unrequited Love by Sarvenaz Tash. Graham has realized he is in love with his best friend and partner in comic book creation, Roxy. What better place to declare his feelings than Comic Con?
- *Great Falls* by Steve Watkins. older brother, Jeremy, returns from Afghanistan and Iraq, as a war hero, Shane notices many changes in his behavior

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- **Booked** by Kwame Alexander. Soccer star Nick Hall is on top until his parents shatter his world. How will Nick put the pieces back together? A novel in verse by the author of *Crossover*.