

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

### Historical Fiction

#### Choose One

##### **The Beekeeper's Apprentice - King, Laurie R**

Mary Russell, an intelligent young woman, becomes the apprentice of Sherlock Holmes.  
Advanced Readers (YA)

##### **In the Shadow of the Pali: A Story of the Hawaiian Leper Colony/Cindrich, Lisa.**

In the late nineteenth century, twelve-year-old Liliha is sent to the Kalaupapa Leprosy Colony at Molokai, Hawaii, where she struggles to endure savage living conditions and people, as well as her own disease.

##### **Ashes of Roses - Auch, Mary Jane**

Sixteen-year-old Margaret Rose Nolan, newly arrived from Ireland, finds work at New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory shortly before the 1911 fire in which 146 employees died.

##### **The Big Burn - Ingold, Jeanette**

Three teenagers battle the flames of the Big Burn of 1910, one of the century's biggest wildfires. (YA)

##### **At the Sign of the Star - Sturtevant, Katherine**

In seventeenth-century London, Meg, who has little interest in cooking, needlework, or other homemaking skills, dreams of becoming a bookseller and someday inheriting her widowed father's book store

##### **The Winter People - Bruchac, Joseph**

As the French and Indian War rages in October of 1759, Saxso, a fourteen-year-old Abenaki boy, pursues the English rangers who have attacked his village and taken his mother and sisters hostage.

##### **The Trial / Jennifer Bryant**

Living in Flemington, New Jersey, in 1935, twelve-year-old Katie Leigh Flynn describes, in a series of poems, the effect on her small town of the ongoing trial of Bruno Hauptmann for the kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby son.

##### **The River Between Us / Peck, Richard**

During the early days of the Civil War, the Pruitt family takes in two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to come north to Illinois.

##### **The Tale of Hill Top Farm /Albert, Susan Wittig**

After purchasing a farm in the Lake District of England, an animal lover attempts to

befriend her fellow villagers, while her animal companions solve a baffling mystery, in a mystery tale inspired by the life of Beatrix Potter (Advanced Readers) (YA)

## **Science Fiction and Fantasy Choose One**

### **The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again. - Tolkien, J.R. R.**

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

### **Sabriel - Nix, Garth**

Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead.

### **Heir Apparent - Vande Velde, Vivian**

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself. (YA)

### **Summerland - Chabin, Michael**

Ethan Feld, the worst baseball player in the history of the game, finds himself recruited by a 100-year-old scout to help a band of fairies triumph over an ancient enemy.

### **Abarat - Barker, Clive**

Candy Quackenbush of Chickentown, Minnesota, one day finds herself on the edge of a foreign world that is populated by strange creatures, and her life is forever changed. (YA)

### **The Merlin Conspiracy - Jones, Diana Wynne**

Roddy and Nick, two teenagers with magical powers they are just learning to use, find that they must work together to save Roddy's home world of Blest from destruction by power-hungry wizards

### **Avalon High /Cabot, Meg.**

Having moved to Annapolis, Maryland with her medievalist parents, high school junior Ellie enrolls at Avalon High School where several students may or may not be reincarnations of King Arthur and his court.

### **Escape from Memory /Haddix, Margaret Peterson.**

Allowing herself to be hypnotized, fifteen-year-old Kira reveals memories of another time and place that may eventually cost her and her mother their lives.

### **East / Pattou, Edith**

A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment.

**Literature Choice Suggestions**  
**Choose One (doesn't have to be from this list)**

**Tangerine /Bloor, Edward**

Paul Fisher, a stellar soccer player despite being legally blind, finally comes into his own when his family moves to the strange town of Tangerine, Florida.

**Make Lemonade - Virginia Euwer Wolff**

In order to earn money for college, fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother. (YA)

**The House of Dies Drear - Hamilton, Virginia**

An African-American family of five moves into an enormous house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves. Mysterious sounds and events as well as the discovery of secret passageways make the family believe they are in grave danger.

**The House on Mango Street - Cisneros, Sandra**

A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.

**Monster - Myers, Walter Dean**

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. *Monster* - Walter Dean Myers (YA)

**Homeless Bird - Whelan, Gloria**

When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

**Burning Up - Cooney, Caroline B.**

When a girl she had met at an innercity church is murdered, fifteen-year-old Macey channels her grief into a school project that leads her to uncover prejudice she had not imagined in her grandparents and their wealthy Connecticut community.

**Many Stones - Coman, Carolyn**

After her sister Laura is murdered in South Africa, Berry and her estranged father travel there to participate in the dedication of a memorial in her name. (YA)

**Black-eyed Suzie - Shaw, Susan**

Suzie's stay in a mental hospital helps her tear down the walls of a devastating psychological prison she calls "the box". (YA)

**Gotta Get Some Bish Bash Bosh – M.E. Allen**

After getting dumped by his girlfriend, a fourteen-year-old English boy attempts to change his image. (Really funny!)

**Enthusiasm /Shulman, Polly.**

Julie and Ashleigh, high school sophomores and Jane Austen fans, seem to fall for the same Mr. Darcy-like boy and struggle to hide their true feelings from one another while rehearsing for a school musical.

**I, Coriander / Gardner, Sally**

In 17th century London, Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic from her mother, must find a way to use this magic in order to save both herself and an inhabitant of the fairy world where her mother was born.

**Criss cross /Perkins, Lynne Rae.**

Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love. 2006 Newbery Winner

Some Young Adult choices may contain mature language and situations.

Don't forget about your Teacher Sponsored Choice. If you forgot what you signed up for, e-mail Mrs. Ayala at [layala@stmga.org](mailto:layala@stmga.org).