

Incoming Eighth Graders

Summer Reading 2009

As language arts teachers, we want to emphasize the importance of reading as a skill in itself and as an indicator of future success. We also acknowledge the importance of summer as a time to relax and have fun for students as well as teachers. In order to prevent reading and fun from being mutually exclusive, we are not assigning a project or any specific materials to read. Instead, we encourage you to read material related to science and/or social studies topics you will be learning about in eighth grade. Science topics include: body systems, work, energy and motion, and chemistry. In social studies you will study the American West, immigration and reform, World War II, civil rights, Vietnam, and the Cold War of the 1980's. You may want to read some fiction and/or non-fiction related to these topics to spark your interest and help you make connections. In addition, if you enjoy a particular author, series, or subject, we strongly encourage you to read those as well.

We are also interested to learn about your summer reading experiences. Therefore, we ask you to complete the attached form as you read and bring it to language arts class on the second day of school.

Have a wonderful summer!

The Eighth Grade Language Arts Teachers

We are interested in the reading habits of our students; consider helping us out by filling out the form below as you read over the summer.

Books

Title	Author	# of Pages	Date Started	Date Completed

Magazines, Newspapers, Other

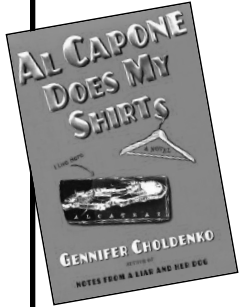
Title	How Often?

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

2009 NUTMEG BOOK AWARD TEEN NOMINEES

Confidentiality Statement: This list of 2009 Nutmeg Nominees is confidential information provided to school media specialists and librarians only. We ask that you respect the Nutmeg Book Award's confidentiality policy until the nominees are made public on February 1, 2008.



Al Capone Does My Shirts

by Jennifer Choldenko

Moose struggles with troublemaking, providing care for his needy sister, and handling family life on the island prison of Alcatraz.

Ask Me No Questions

by Marina Budhos

After Nadira's father, an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh, is arrested, her older sister grows more sorrowful with each passing day. Nadira, no longer living in her sophisticated sister's shadow, must cope with the difficulties of being a Muslim in post-9/11 America.

The Case of the Missing Marquess

by Nancy Springer

For Enola Holmes, investigating mysteries runs in the family, including her own mother's disappearance. When her elder brother Sherlock determines she should attend a prim boarding school, she resolves to escape and solve the mystery herself.

Dairy Queen

by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Since her father's injury, DJ Schwenk has been doggedly running her family's dairy farm. But the summer before 11th grade, the rival school's football coach sends his stuck-up, lazy quarterback, Brian, to help DJ out on the farm. DJ finds herself coaching Brian, and she starts to wonder if there is more out there for her than farm work.

Day of Tears

by Julius Lester

Husbands and wives are torn apart, young children are separated from their parents, and life-long friendships are instantly ended. Over the course of three days in 1859, more than 400 slaves were sold to pay one man's gambling debts. This riveting book tells their stories.

Elsewhere

by Gabrielle Zevin

This novel asks the question: what happens to us when we die? When Liz Hall dies at fifteen, she discovers Elsewhere, an afterlife where people and animals age backwards until they are reborn again. But Liz desperately wants to grow up, fall in love, and get her driver's license, not rewind to fourteen!

Heat

by Mike Lupica

What can a 12-year-old Cuban immigrant do when he dreams of pitching in the Little League World Series, only to be benched? Michael Arroyo relies on his best friend, Manny Cabrera, his neighbor Mrs. Cora, and the mysterious new girl pitcher he meets practicing in the shadow of Yankee Stadium.

The Schwa Was Here

by Neal Shusterman

When Antsy Bonano and his friends discover that fellow 8th grade classmate Calvin Schwa can become invisible, they use the knowledge to hatch a money making plot. What begins as a surefire scheme turns into something else, as you weave through this funny, yet thought provoking journey with Cal, Antsy, and Lexie.

Uglies

by Scott Westerfeld

When Tally turns sixteen, she will transition from an Ugly to a Pretty, receiving society's mandated plastic surgery to look like everyone else: model beautiful. But before her birthday, she meets some Ugliers who have never had the surgery. And they have a secret to share with her...

Wolf Brother

by Michelle Paver

A demonic bear has killed Torak's father, and Torak, a stone-age boy, must destroy the beast. On his journey he finds an orphan wolf cub and learns they can communicate with each other. Now both orphans are on a perilous journey to defeat evil.

