

Springfield Public Schools
8th Grade Summer Reading List
2019

Alvarez, Julia Return to Sender (fiction)

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter. When he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

Bauer, Joan Hope was Here (fiction)

16-year-old Hope and her aunt unexpectedly become involved in a campaign to oust their new town's corrupt mayor.

Bradbury, Jennifer Shift (fiction)

When best friends Chris and Win go on a cross-country bicycle trek the summer after graduating from high school and only one returns, the FBI wants to know what happened.

Carter, Ally Cross My Heart and Hope to Spy (fiction)

Genius Cammie Morgan begins the spring semester of her sophomore year with many questions about her ex-boyfriend, mother, and the last term, and intends to use her spying abilities to have them answered.

Colfer, Eoin The Supernaturalist (fiction)

In futuristic Satellite City, fourteen-year-old Cosmo Hill escapes from an abusive orphanage and teams up with three other people who share his unusual ability to see supernatural creatures, and together they determine the nature and purpose of the swarming blue Parasites that are invisible to most humans.

Cooper, Susan King of Shadows (fiction)

While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself.

Draper, Sharon Romiette and Julio (fiction)

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after becoming friends on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating.

Korman, Gordon No More Dead Dogs (fiction)

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. 3

Lupica, Mike Batboy (fiction)

Even though his mother feels baseball ruined her marriage to his father, she allows fourteen-year-old Brian to become a bat boy for the Detroit Tigers, who have just drafted his favorite player back onto the team.

Myers, Walter Monster (fiction)

The Murder Trial, starring 16-year-old Steven Harmon as an accessory to the crime, is taking place in Steve's head – and in real life.

Paulsen, Gary The Crossing (fiction)

Fourteen year-old Manny, a street kid fighting for survival in a Mexican border town, develops a strange friendship with an emotionally disturbed American soldier who decides to help him get across the border.

Preller, James Bystander(fiction)

Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend, but something doesn't seem right about him. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin. Eric wants to break away and do the right thing, but in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander...to the bully's next victim.

Robinson, Sharon Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By (nonfiction)

This inspiring collection pays tribute to baseball legend and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson. Jackie's daughter, Sharon Robinson, acts as a personal tour guide through the nine heartfelt, hard-won values that helped her father achieve his goals.

Schmidt, Gary D. The Wednesday Wars (fiction)

On Wednesday afternoons, Holling Hoodhood stays after school with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling is convinced hates his guts. Each month in Holling's tumultuous seventh-grade year is a chapter in this quietly powerful coming-of-age novel set in suburban Long Island during the late '60s.

Swanson, James Chasing Lincoln's Killer (nonfiction)

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

Westerfield, Scott Uglies (fiction)

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.