



**WMS
SUMMER
READING
2010-2011**

EIGHTH GRADE

Entering 8th Grade Core Summer Reading Book

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS BOOK

Schlosser, Eric. **Chew on This**

An adaptation of Schlosser's best-seller, *Fast Food Nation*, this book might just change the way you think about food! It covers everything from the invention of the hamburger to America's obsession with fast food to secrets of school cafeterias. The fast food industry counts on kids as it's prime consumers, find out the fascinating and sometimes frightening truth about what lurks between those sesame seed buns, what a chicken 'nugget' really is, and how the fast food industry has been feeding off children for generations.

All students are required to read the 8th Grade Core Summer Reading Book as well as one other book on the list.

Latest and Greatest (new releases)

Collins, Suzanne. **Hunger Games Series**

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. The sequel is *Catching Fire* and the third, and final book in the trilogy *Mockingjay* is due out in August.

Going, K.L. **King of the Screw Ups**

Liam Geller is one of the most popular boys in school but can't seem to do anything right in the eyes of his father; so he goes to live with his rocker uncle who helps him to understand that there is much more to him than his father will ever see.

Lloyd, Saci. **The Carbon Diaries 2015**

In 2015, when England becomes the first nation to introduce carbon dioxide rationing in a drastic bid to combat climate change, sixteen-year-old Laura documents the first year of rationing as her family spirals out of control. Sequel: *The Carbon Diaries 2017*.

Ryan, Carrie. **The Forest of Hands and Teeth (series)**

Through twists and turns of fate, orphaned Mary seeks knowledge of life, love, and especially what lies beyond her walled village and the surrounding forest, where dwell the Unconsecrated, aggressive flesh-eating people who were once dead. Sequel: *The Dead-Tossed Waves*.

Westerfeld, Scott. **Leviathan**

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Wintergirls**

Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.

Stork, Francisco X. **Marcelo in the Real World**

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

Berk, Josh. **The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin**

When Will Halpin transfers from his all-deaf school into a mainstream Pennsylvania high school, he faces discrimination and bullying, but still manages to solve a mystery surrounding the death of a popular football player in his class.

If You Missed... (classics)

Austen, Jane. **Emma**

Emma, a self-assured young lady in Regency England, attempts to arrange her life and the lives of those around her into a pattern dictated by her romantic fancy.

Crowe, Chris. **Mississippi Trial, 1955**

In Mississippi in 1955, a sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African-American from Chicago.

Frank, Anne. **Diary of a Young Girl**

Born in 1929, Anne Frank received a blank diary on her 13th birthday, just weeks before she and her family went into hiding to avoid being rounded up in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. Her journal chronicles the 25 trying months of Anne Frank's time hidden in the secret annex with her family and others as they deal with the constant fear of discovery.

Lowry, Lois. **The Giver**

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Smith, Betty. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**

Francie Nolan grows up amid the poverty of a Brooklyn tenement, in a poignant novel set in the early twentieth century. By turns overwhelming, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the story of the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolan family is honest and tender.

For Real... (non-fiction)

Akbar, Said Hyder and Susan Burton. **Come Back to Afghanistan**

After the fall of the Taliban government in 2001, Afghans living in exile began to return home in hopes of participating in rebuilding their war-torn country. Akbar's father sold his clothing store in Oakland to join his friend Hamid Karzai, now the elected president, serving first as his spokesman and later as the governor of the province of Kunar. In this memoir, he chronicled his experiences and his reactions.

Coleman, Janet Wyman. **Secrets, Lies, Gizmos, and Spies: A History of Spies and Espionage**

Published in association with the Spy Museum, this book is an illustrated exploration of espionage that discusses famous and notorious spies, spy technology, tactics, and notable missions in history.

Ellis, Deborah. **Three Wishes : Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak**

Presents the words of young people between the ages of eleven and eighteen in which they share what it is like to live in the midst of the upheaval and violence of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Giblin, James Cross. **When Plague Strikes: The Black Death, Smallpox, Aids**

While the Black Death, smallpox, and AIDS may seem to have little in common, Giblin draws parallels between them that are fascinating. The Black Death was often blamed on Jews, leading to hatred and violence against them. In the same way, many people have blamed AIDS on homosexuals. The author traces the medical community's fearful and confused reactions to these diseases.

Gardner, Olivia. **Letters to a Bullied Girl**

Presents a selection from the thousands of letters written to offer comfort and support to Olivia Gardner, a girl who became the victim of bullying after suffering an epileptic seizure in school, and whose story was heard by sisters Emily and Sarah Buder who took it upon themselves to start the letter writing campaign.

Gore, Al. **An Inconvenient Truth**

An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously.

Gruwell, Erin. **The Freedom Writers diary : how a teacher and 150 teens used writing to change themselves and the world around them**

Tells the story of how young English teacher Erin Gruwell confronted the problem of racial and ethnic intolerance in her classroom, and features excerpts from the diaries of her students, now known as The Freedom Writers.

Heiligman, Deborah. **Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith**

A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the affect of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife.

Hoose, Phillip. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**

Presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case

Krakauer, Jon. **Into Thin Air**

On May 9th, 1996, some 40 climbers started their summit assault on the highest mountain in the world – Mount Everest. Twenty-four hours later one climber had died and twenty three other men and women were caught in a desperate struggle for their lives. This is the definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest.

McPherson, James. **Fields of Fury: The American Civil War**

In this stirring account, McPherson brings to life the Civil War. From the initial Confederate attack on Fort Sumter to the Union's triumph at Appomattox Court House, Fields of Fury details the war that helped shape us as a nation. Includes anecdotes from both soldiers on the battlefield and civilians at home.

Smith, Charles R. **Twelve Rounds to Glory : the Story of Muhammad Ali**

Rap-inspired verse and illustrations describe the life of Muhammed Ali, discussing his bouts, struggles with societal prejudice, Islamic faith, Olympic glory, and more.

It Happened Back Then... (historical fiction)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Chains**

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight for freedom. When she and her sister, Ruth, become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel, Isabel decides to become a spy for the Patriots.

Bruchac, Joseph. **Code Talker**

Six-year-old Ned Begay leaves his Navajo home for boarding school, where he learns the English language and American ways. At 16, he enlists in the U.S. Marines during World War II and is trained as a code talker, using his native language to radio battlefield information and commands in a code that was kept secret until 1969. Ned deals with fear, loneliness, and the horrors of the battlefields in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. The narrative pulls no punches in describing war's brutality.

Cooper, Michelle. **A Brief History of Montmaray**

On her sixteenth birthday in 1936, Sophia begins a diary of life in a fictional island country off the coast of Spain, where she is among the last descendants of an impoverished royal family trying to hold their nation together on the eve of the second World War.

Gardner, Sally. **Red Necklace**

In the late eighteenth-century, Sido, the twelve-year-old daughter of a self-indulgent marquis, and Yann, a fourteen-year-old Gypsy orphan raised to perform in a magic show, face a common enemy at the start of the French Revolution.

Meyer, L.A. **Bloody Jack**

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

Morpurgo, Michael. **Private Peaceful**

In this shocking, honest and unforgettable World War I story, fifteen-year-old Thomas lies about his age in order to follow his older brother, Charlie, to fight in France. The author details the horrific details of trench warfare: the mud, rats, gas attacks, and slaughter.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Sunrise Over Fallujah**

Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: War.

Shaara, Michael. **The Killer Angels** This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel brings the reader face-to-face with the key participants of one of the bloodiest battles of American history -- the Battle of Gettysburg.

Sharenow, Rob. **My Mother the Cheerleader**

Thirteen-year-old Louise uncovers secrets about her family and her neighborhood during the violent protests over school desegregation in 1960 New Orleans.

Venkatraman, Padma. **Climbing the Stairs**

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of life.

Zusak, Markus. **The Book Thief**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose bookstealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

It Could Happen to You... (realistic fiction)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Speak**

Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud: What could have caused Melinda to suddenly fall mute? Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-the summer party? Or maybe it's because her parents' only form of communication is Post-It notes written on their way out the door to their nine-to-whenever jobs. While Melinda is bothered by these things, deep down she knows the real reason why she's been struck mute.

Bauer, Joan. **Hope Was Here**

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Crutcher, Chris. **Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes**

An obese boy and a disfigured girl suffer the emotional scars of years of mockery at the hands of their peers. They share a hard-boiled view of the world until events in their senior year hurl them in very different directions.

Headley, Justina Chen. **North of Beautiful**

Terra is a bit of a control freak. She channels her frustration with her family's inability to communicate into her art and controls her family situation by being who she thinks she's "supposed" to be. She gets good grades, dates the right boy, works out daily... When Terra accidentally runs into Jacob, a boy from a different school who is completely different from herself, together they journey through her inner and outer struggles

Howe, James. **The Misfits**

What do a 12-year-old student who moonlights as a tie salesman, a tall, outspoken girl, a gay middle schooler and a kid branded as a hooligan have in common? Best friends for years, they've all been the target of cruel name-calling and now that they're in seventh grade, they're not about to take it anymore.

Konigsburg, E. L. **Silent to the Bone**

What happened to cause Branwell Zamborska to become mute? All anyone knows is that he called 911 because his baby sister, Nikki, had stopped breathing, and when he was unable to speak to the operator, Vivian, the English au pair, came on the line to say that Branwell had dropped the baby and shaken her. His best friend, Connor, begins visiting him at the juvenile behavioral center, where he has been sent while Nikki remains in a coma at the hospital. Working out a code they both can use, Connor begins the long process of trying to communicate with his friend to find out what really happened.

Korman, Gordon. **Jake, Reinvented**

Rick becomes friends with the popular new boy, Jake Garrett, football player and host of superlative parties, and in the process discovers the true nature of his schoolmates and uncovers the mystery of Jake's past.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Monster**

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.

Perkins, Mitali. **Monsoon Summer**

Fifteen-year-old Jasmine would like to have spent the summer in California, rather than accompanying her mother to Pune, India, where she has received a grant to work at the orphanage that Jazz had lived in as a child. As Jasmine forms new friendships in Pune and delves deeper into her Indian heritage, she discovers her own strong beauty as well as the confidence to help others.

Imagine That... (fantasy/science fiction)

Allende, Isabel. **City of Beasts (series)**

When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.

Almond, David. **Clay**

The developing relationship between teenager Davie and a mysterious new boy in town morphs into something darker and more sinister when Davie learns firsthand of the boy's supernatural powers.

Anderson, M. T. **Feed**

This brilliantly ironic satire is set in a future world where television and computers are connected directly into people's brains when they are babies. The result is a chillingly recognizable consumer society where empty-headed kids are driven by fashion and shopping and the avid pursuit of silly entertainment and by constant customized murmurs in their brains of encouragement to buy, buy, buy. A Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Award.

Bray, Libba. **A Great and Terrible Beauty (series)**

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen-year-old Gemma returns to England, after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

Croggon, Alison. **The Naming (series)**

A manuscript from the lost civilization of Edil-Amarandah chronicles the experiences of sixteen-year-old Maerad, an orphan gifted in the magic and power of the Bards, as she escapes from slavery and begins to learn how to use her Gift to stave off the evil Darkness that threatens to consume her world.

Kostick, Conor. **Epic**

On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

Pearson, Mary. **Adoration of Jenna Fox**

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Pratchett, Terry. **Nation**

A tsunami destroys everything leaving Mau, an island boy, Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, and a small group of refugees responsible for rebuilding their village and their lives.

Werlin, Nancy. **Double Helix**

Eighteen-year-old Eli Samuels is hired at the Wyatt Transgenics Lab. Eli's father is dead set against the job because of a secret he harbors concerning the lab's owner, Dr. Quincy Wyatt and Eli's mother. Shortly after starting work, the teen meets Kayla Matheson, a beautiful girl who eerily reminds him of a photo of his mother when she was young. Slowly, Eli uncovers one layer after another of the shocking truth about Dr. Wyatt's genetic-engineering experiments and their connection to his parents, Kayla, and himself.

Edge of Your Seat (mystery & adventure)

Kass, Pnina. **Real Time**

Sixteen-year-old Tomas Wanninger persuades his mother to let him leave Germany to volunteer at a kibbutz in Israel, where he experiences a violent political attack and finds answers about his own past.

Haddon, Mark. **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Hayes, Daniel. **The Trouble with Lemons**

His real name was Tyler McAllister, but he felt like a lemon. He had allergies and nightmares, and was the only unfamous person in his family. But one night he and a friend went swimming at the forbidden quarry, and Tyler found a dead body. Now he's determined to find out who killed the man and why they're now after him.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. **The White Darkness**

Taken to Antarctica by the man she thinks of as her uncle for what she believes to be a vacation, Symone, a troubled fourteen year old, discovers that he is dangerously obsessed with seeking Symme's Hole, an opening that supposedly leads into the center of a hollow Earth.

Parker, Robert. **The Boxer and the Spy**

Fifteen-year-old Terry, an aspiring boxer, tries to uncover the mystery behind the unexpected death of a classmate, shy high school student whose body is found washed up on the shore of a quiet beach town.

Westerfeld, Scott. **So Yesterday**

Hunter Braque, a New York City teenager who is paid by corporations to spot what is "cool," combines his analytical skills with girlfriend Jen's creative talents to find a missing person and thwart a conspiracy directed at the heart of consumer culture.

Home Run! (sports)

Mackel, Kathryn. **Boost**

Thirteen-year-old Savvy is the girls basketball team's star player, but, despite her height and skills, Savvy struggles with her self-confidence and searches for some way to boost her performance, but when steroids are found in her bag, Savvy denies they are hers and the rumors start to fly.

Crutcher, Chris. **Whale Talk**

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular student.

Deuker, Carl. **Painting the Black**

In his senior year of high school, late-bloomer Ryan Ward has just begun to feel the magic of baseball: the magic of catching a wicked slider, of throwing a runner out, of training hard and pushing limits. But when one of his teammates clearly pushes the limits too far, Ryan is face with a heartbreaking dilemma; he must choose between his love for the game and his integrity.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Game**

Drew Lawson knows basketball is taking him places. It has to, because his grades certainly aren't. But lately his plan has run squarely into a pick. Coach's new offense has made another player a star, and Drew won't let anyone disrespect his game. Just as his team makes the playoffs, Drew must come up with something big to save his fading college prospects.

Peet, Mal. **Keeper**

When Paul Faustino of LA NACION flips on his tape recorder for an exclusive interview with El Gato — the phenomenal goalkeeper who single-handedly brought his team the World Cup — the seasoned reporter quickly learns that this will be no ordinary story. Instead, the legendary El Gato narrates a spellbinding tale that begins in the South American rainforest, where a ghostly but very real mentor, the Keeper, emerges to teach a poor, gawky boy the most thrilling secrets of the game. A seamless blend of magic realism and exhilarating soccer action, this evocative novel will haunt readers long after the story ends.

Picture This... (graphic novels)

Almond, David. **Savage**

After his father dies and the town bully Hooper begins to target him, Blue starts to write and illustrate a graphic novel full of blood, guts, and adventures; but after one of Blue's characters pays Hooper a nighttime visit, Blue wonders if the lines of reality have blurred.

Ctellucci, Cecil. **Plain Janes**

When transfer student Jane is forced to move from the confines of Metro City to Suburbia, she thinks her life is over. But there in the lunchroom at the reject table she finds her tribe: three other girls named Jane. Main Jane encourages them to form a secret art gang and paint the town P.L.A.I.N. - People Loving Art In Neighborhoods. But can art attacks really save high school?

Hinds, Gareth. **Beowulf**

Presents a graphic novel adaptation of the Old English epic poem, "Beowulf," in which a Norse hero saves Denmark's royal house from monsters, returns home to become his own people's greatest king, and then faces a murderous dragon to protect them.

Kirby, Jack. **Jack Kirby's The Losers**

Collects all twelve issues of the comic series "The Losers," which follows the adventures of Captain Storm, Johnny Cloud, Gunner, and Sarge--who formed their own Special Forces unit after they each had individual failures in other branches of the military.

Larson, Hope. **Mercury**

A necklace that reportedly has the power to find gold serves as a link between Tara Fraser, a teen who is facing the angst of living with relatives and being the new girl in school after her home burns down, and Josey, a distant relative who lived in Tara's house over one hundred years earlier and fell in love with Asa Curry, a mysterious man who claimed to be a gold dowser.

Winick, Judd. **Pedro and Me**

In graphic art format, describes the friendship between two roommates on the MTV show "Real World," one of whom died of AIDS.

Yang, Gene Luen. **American Born Chinese**

As alienated kids go, Jin Wang is fairly run-of-the-mill: he eats lunch by himself in a corner of the schoolyard, gets picked on by bullies and jocks, and develops a crush on a pretty classmate. And, oh, yes, his parents are from Taiwan. This is more than just the story of a Chinese-American childhood: it's a fable for every kid born into a body and a life they wished they could escape.

Laugh Out Loud! (humor)

Nelson, Blake. **Destroy All Cars**

Through assignments for English class, seventeen-year-old James Hoff rants against consumerism and his classmates' apathy, puzzles over his feelings for his ex-girlfriend, and expresses disdain for his emotionally-distant parents.

LaRochelle, David. **Absolutely, Positively Not**

Steven is a typical kid from Minnesota. So what if he happens to like keeping his stuff neat? And so who cares if he happens to prefer square dancing over everyone else in town's favorite pastime, hockey? He is just like everyone else and he is absolutely, positively, NOT gay. Or is he? Read this hilarious account of Steven trying to figure his life out

Lubar, David. **Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie**

Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful

there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling.

Rennison, Louise. **Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging (series)**

Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

Scieszka, Jon. **Guys Write for Guys Read**

This collection contains most of the best guys writing for teens today. There's something for every guy in this collection of stories, mini-memoirs, advice, poems, comics and drawings chosen by readers on the Guys Read web site.