

# Summer Reading

2020 - 2021

8th  
Grade

## Required Text No. 1

(pick one)

See list of novels  
to choose from  
attached.

### ASSIGNMENT

Students will keep a reading journal from the point of view of a main character.

\*This assignment will be collected for a grade the 2nd Friday when we return to school.

## Required Text No. 2

(pick one)

See list of novels  
to choose from  
attached.

### ASSIGNMENT

Students will fill out the plot structure graphic organizer for the novel.

\*This assignment will be collected for a grade the 2nd Friday when we return to school.

CAN'T GET TO THE  
LIBRARY OR BOOKSTORE?

Digital copies of books are available for free on the Cloud Library app with your library card number.

## More Information

Some of these novels contain mature content.

Students will take AR tests on both of their summer reading novels.

More details for each assignment can be found on Denton's website. Click on the staff tab and click on the appropriate teacher's name.

# Denton Magnet School 8th Grade Summer Reading Novel Choice List 2020 - 2021

Students are required to read **two books** over the summer and complete the required assignments. **Student should select novels from the list below.** He or she needs to choose novels that he or she has not read or tested on previously. They must complete the assignments for **each** novel. Assignments will be turned in within the first two weeks of school.

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## Novel List

Choose **two** novels to read from the list below that you have not read or tested on previously.

*Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they have written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Interest Level: UG      Book Level: 4.5      Word Count: 24,229      Page Count: 167

*Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 6.4      Word Count: 56,150      Page Count: 231

*Corner of the Universe* by Ann Martin

During the summer that Hattie turns twelve, her world is turned upside down with the startling arrival of an uncle no one has ever spoken about. Adam's "school" – an institution for the mentally disabled – is being closed.

Interest Level: UG      Book Level: 4.5      Word Count: 42,500      Page Count: 189

*The Darkest Minds* by Alexandra Bracken

Sixteen-year-old Ruby breaks out of a government-run "rehabilitation camp" for teens who acquired dangerous powers after surviving a virus that wiped out most American children. The plot contains mature content. Book No. 1 in a series.

Interest Level: UG      Book Level: 5.7      Word Count: 137,395      Page Count: 488

*Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson

After her thirteen year old brother is captured and beaten by the Serbian police, Meli and her family flee their homeland in search of safety. This heartwarming contemporary tale illustrates the power of family despite prejudice and persecution.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 5.2      Word Count: 40,005      Page Count: 145

*Death Cloud* by Andrew Lane

In 1868, with his army officer father posted to India and his mother mysteriously "unwell," fourteen-year-old Sherlock is sent to stay with his uncle and aunt in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder. The plot contains violence. Book No. 1 in a series.

Interest Level: MG+      Book Level: 6.3      Word Count: 72,409      Page Count: 311

*Double Dutch* by Sharon Draper

Three eighth-grade friends, preparing for the International Double Dutch Championship jump rope competition in their home town, cope with Randy's missing father, Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies, and a secret Delia is too embarrassed to share.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 4.9      Word Count: 44,912      Page Count: 183

*The Fat Boy Chronicles: Inspired by a True Story* by Diane Lang

Jimmy Winterpock, 187 pounds at the age of fourteen, finds the constant taunts over his weight difficult to bear, but his life changes when his friend Paul enlists him in helping solve a local murder case. The coauthor is Michael Buchanan.

Interest level: MG+      Book level: 5.2      Word Count: 61,283      Page Count: 219

*The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, who has cancer, meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and, as they fall in love, they both wonder how they will be remembered. The plot contains mature content.

Interest Level: UG      Book Level: 5.5      Word Count: 65,752      Page Count: 336

*H.I.V.E.: Higher Institute of Villainous Education* by Mark Walden

Swept away to a hidden academy for training budding evil geniuses, Otto, a brilliant orphan, Wing, a sensitive warrior, Laura, a shy computer specialist, and Shelby, an infamous jewel thief, plot to escape the prison known as H.I.V.E. Book No. 1 in a series.

Interest level: MG      Book level: 7.5      Word Count: 65,909      Page Count: 304

**\*This book selection is located as an e-book on Big Universe @ <https://www.biguniverse.com/signinStudent> login is the same username and login to get on a MCPSS school computer.**

*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box, set aside by his father before his death five years earlier, that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 4.5      Word Count: 76,693      Page Count: 289

*Million Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, and he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 5.4      Word Count: 54,427      Page Count: 244

*The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie

A village rumor hints that Mrs. Ferrars poisoned her husband, but no one is sure. Then there's another victim in a chain of death. Unfortunately for the killer, master sleuth Hercule Poirot takes over the investigation. A classic whodunnit with a twist from the queen of mystery.

Interest Level: UG      Book Level: 6.3      Word Count: 69,136      Page Count: 277

*Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen

Young Catherine Morland, the heroine of *Northanger Abbey*, has a vivid imagination which thrives on mysterious strangers and haunted ruins. When she meets the handsome Henry Tilney, her fantasies lead her into disastrous errors of judgement.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 10.8      Word Count: 77,157      Page Count: 254

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

When Wade stumbles upon the first of the fiendish puzzles set up by virtual world OASIS creator James Halliday, he finds he must compete with thousands of others to claim a prize of massive fortune. The plot contains mature content.

Interest Level: UG      Book Level: 6.7      Word Count: 136,048      Page Count: 374

*Scorpions* by Walter Dean Myers

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun—until a tragedy occurs. The plot contains violence.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 3.7      Word Count: 44,653      Page Count: 224

*Secrets, Lies and Algebra* by Wendy Lichtman

Eighth-grader Tess is having trouble in school and with her friends. A boy she secretly likes asks her to cheat for him, and she suspects her mom's friend has been murdered. Luckily, Tess has always loved math, and she uses mathematical concepts to help her solve the dilemmas she's facing.

Interest Level: MG+      Book Level: 5.9      Word Count: 27,785      Page Count: 183

*Soldier's Heart* by Gary Paulson

Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.

Interest Level: MG      Book Level: 5.7      Word Count: 15,206      Page Count: 104