

## Summer Reading

Educational researchers have conducted studies on the impact that summer vacation has on academic outcomes. The findings suggest that the break from school can have a negative effect causing a drop in reading scores from the spring to the fall. Researchers call this the “Summer Slide.”

Additionally, NPC Research and the Collaborative Summer Library Program reviewed four comprehensive research syntheses conducted since 2000. The overarching conclusion was that summer reading decreases summer learning loss and increases reading achievement.

**Reading just 4 to 6 books, for middle schoolers, has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall. When students choose reading materials and read for enjoyment, they receive gains in reading achievement, including better reading comprehension, vocabulary, and even writing style. The longer that this voluntary reading is practiced, the more consistent and positive the results.**

With that in mind, the eighth grade language arts teachers would like to encourage incoming eighth graders to read **at least four books** this summer. Three of those books are student-choice novels. It is our hope that they choose a novel that interests them and that they want to read. Teachers are recommending that one out of those four books be a selection from either the fiction or nonfiction list. All students will complete an assignment based on one of these books upon returning to school in the fall.

## Fiction List



***Between Shades of Gray*** by Ruta Sepetys

In 1941, Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where, her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp. Lina fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.



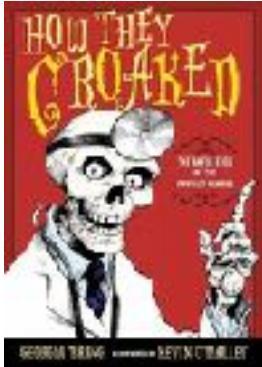
***Everlost*** by Neal Shusterman

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.



***Refugee*** by Alan Gratz

Separated by decades, a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany; a Cuban girl during the riots of 1994; and a Syrian boy in 2015 experiencing a country full of violence, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge.



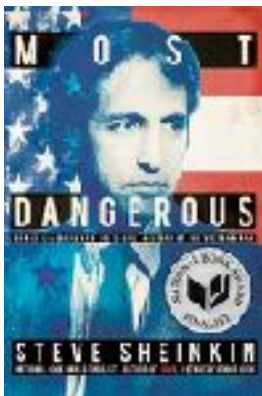
***How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous*** by Georgia Bragg

A look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths.



***Maus: A Survivor's Tale*** by Art Spiegelman

This is a graphic novel. It is a memoir about Vladek Spiegleman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself.



***Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*** by Steve Sheinkin

The story of Daniel Ellsberg and his decision to steal and publish secret documents about America's involvement in the Vietnam War.



Hinsdale Middle School

Recommended

8th Grade

Summer Reading

2018