



Summer Reading 2009 Students entering 8th grade in 2009

All students entering 8th grade for the 2009-2010 school year are required to participate in summer reading. You **will read two texts** before you come to school in August. Bring the notes from your reading to school with you to complete your assignment.

You need to read the following book before coming to school next year.

That Was Then, This is Now

by S. E. Hinton

When you get back to school next year, you will have to answer a **text-based writing prompt** about the book during the first week of school. You **can take notes** on the book as you are reading and **use those notes** to answer the writing prompt. Your teachers have given you some sample types of note taking to use when you are reading. You can **choose one of these tools, or create one of your own** to organize your notes on the book. You will not know the exact writing prompt until you get to school, but there will be **two topics to choose from**.

The important topics of the story are **setting, character changes** and the **importance of the problem or conflict**. Some questions to consider while reading are – how is the setting (time and place) important to the story? Or what is the problem/conflict of the story? Or how does the character change over time?

Here are some sample note taking tools- remember you can create your own too!

Character	Trait/ changes	Page #	Setting	Why is this time or place important?

Problem/ Conflict	Importance to story

You also have to read a second piece of text before coming back to school in August. This second text **can be a short story, poem, magazine, novel or another type of text that interests you.** You will **be required** to get in a small group next year and explain your text to your group during the first week of school. We have included some titles as ideas below, but **you can choose any text to read for your second reading** that you like and interests you.

Beyond the Burning	Kathryn Lasky	When, in the winter of 1691, accusation of witchcraft surface in her small New England village, twelve year old Mary Chase fights to save her mother from execution.
Brian's Winter	Gary Paulsen	Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author's book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.
Education of Little Tree	Forrest Carter	The super-seller memoir of a Cherokee boyhood in the 1930s. The most sensitive autobiographical account ever of the Cherokee way, as seen through the eyes of a young boy in the Appalachian Mountains.
Enders's Game	Orson Scott Card	Set in the future, Ender has been chosen to lead an army of boys on a quest to save the world. He must learn to be a leader while facing a series of challenges with virtual battles and aliens. Strong language and war themes
Flipped	Wendelin Van Draanen	In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.
Handbook for Boys	Walter Dean Myers	Jimmy and Kevin's activities almost land them in juvenile detention until Duke employs them in his Harlem barbershop. Duke has rules for everything, but he also has some good advice.
Let the Circle Be Unbroken	Mildred Taylor	Four black children growing up in Mississippi during the Depression experience prejudice and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.
A Light in the Storm: The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin	Karen Hesse	In 1860 and 1861, while working in her father's lighthouse on an island off the coast of Delaware, fifteen-year-old Amelia records in her diary how the Civil War is beginning to devastate her divided state.

Magazine Titles for Teens:

Dogs for Kids Magazine

Sport's Illustrated for Kids

Cricket Magazine