



Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading

3 books: 2 required and 1 free choice

Required: *Unbroken (junior version)* by Laura Hillenbrand

Choose ONE of the following by C.S. Lewis:

Out of the Silent Planet

Perelandra

That Hideous Strength

Since most children of this age can read the majority of grade-level books for themselves, the following list will include a majority of independent reads, though there are a few that can be chosen as family read alouds, as [research](#) has proven that reading aloud into adulthood has a beneficial effect. Keep in mind that a Listening Vocabulary is almost always much higher than a Reading Vocabulary. Thus, you can read aloud a book that is above current school reading level, and most children will be able to understand it. After reading a short passage (and reading the illustrations as well), we suggest that you informally ask your child to tell back what he or she has heard, in order to improve comprehension, sequencing, synthesis, concentration, and enjoyment. Picture narrations are also a fun way to enliven the story while increasing comprehension.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but rather some of our particular favorites! There are obviously many more good books that are available. If you seek advice from a librarian, note that the terminology most librarians will best understand is “classic literature,” which for our purposes we call “[living](#)” books. Remember that, with regard to all book suggestions, it is always your responsibility as the parent to assess a book’s suitability for you and your family.

We have included books which employ fantastical themes, due to the fact that we encourage children to enjoy the proper use of the imagination. This is an important aspect of development, and one in which parents are urged to give their child guidance. That is, your child will be looking to you to help define the lines of fantasy versus reality and the proper guidelines therein.

If a title is not in your local library, you may want to check used bookstores, both [physical](#) and [virtual](#). A great summer activity is to visit some of the physical bookstores in your area and see what they have to offer. A must-see is The Story Shop in Monroe, Georgia! Do not neglect the [power](#) of [audiobooks](#), as they are great opportunities for everyone to listen and bond as a family. They can also help with books set in a different locale, as the narrators are often from that particular culture. Enjoy!

On the sheet enclosed, please keep track of the books your child reads or those that you have read to him or her this summer. You will give this record to your child’s teacher at the beginning of school. If you like to purchase books, consider [thriftbooks.com](#)!

Other Reading Lists:

goodandbeautiful.com/summer-reading/

(You can sign up for an account (no cost to you at all) and access their Summer Reading 2024 -or-

goodandbeautifulbooklist.com/my-book-list/

Click on "My Book List" after choosing your parameters (age, interest, etc.). After your list populates, select the pink button (Download and Print List)

<https://readaloudrevival.com/booklist/boys-8-12/>

<https://readaloudrevival.com/booklist/girls-8-12/>

Don't forget audiobooks!

<https://readaloudrevival.com/booklist/audiobooks-8-12/> (See links for additional audiobooks above )

<https://heritagemom.com/heritage-mom-book-recommendations/>

Heritage Mom is Amber O'Neal Johnston, a homeschool mom and curator of books/items for people of color. She has a vast collection of books by grade/history, etc.



Summer Reading List for Rising 8th Grade Students

Alcott, Louisa May

Jo's Boys, Eight Cousins, Jack and Jill, Little Men, Little Women

Alder, Elizabeth

The King's Shadow (medieval story that shows how God uses a disability)

Andreola, Karen

Beautiful Girlhood

Avi

Night Journeys (pre-Revolutionary War--about escaped indentured servants)

Babbitt, Natalie

Tuck Everlasting

Burnett, Frances Hodgson

The Secret Garden

Carroll, Lewis

Alice's Adventure in Wonderland

Carter, Forest

The Education of Little Tree

Cornelissen, Cornelia

Soft Rain (about the Cherokee Trail of Tears)

Crane, Stephen

Red Badge of Courage

Dickens, Charles

The Cricket on the Hearth, A Christmas Carol

Farley, Walter

The Black Stallion

Foster, Genevieve

Augustus Caesar's World

George, Jean Craighead

Julie of the Wolves

Gipson, Fred

Old Yeller

Grahame, Kenneth

Wind in the Willows

Henry, Marguerite
Ibbotson, Eva
Kamkwamba, William

Krensky, Stephen
LasCasas, Bartholomew
Lee, Harper
London, Jack
Lunn, Janet
MacDonald, George
Magnuson, Sally
Marshall, Catherine
McGill, Alice
McPherson, Joyce
Neville, Emily
O'Dell, Scott

O'Hara, Mary
Park, Linda Sue

Pyle, Howard
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
Sewall, Anna
Speare, Elizabeth George
Stevenson, Robert Louis
Ten Boom, Corrie
Tolkien, J.R.R.
Travers, P.L.
Ullman, James Ramsey
Verne, Jules

Whelan, Gloria

King of the Wind
Journey to the River Sea (set in Brazil)
*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (true story about
hardship and perseverance set in Africa!)*
Conqueror and Hero: The Search for Alexander A Biography
The Log of Christopher Columbus' First Voyage to America
To Kill a Mockingbird
The Call of the Wild, White Fang
The Root Cellar
At the Back of the North Wind
The Flying Scotsman: A Biography about Eric Liddell
Christy, Julie
Molly Bannaky
A Piece of the Mountain: The Biography of Blaise Pascal
It's like That
*Island of the Blue Dolphin, The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by
Day*
My Friend, Flicka
*A Long Walk to Water (amazing story about shortage of
water in Africa)*
A Single Shard
The Story of the Champions of the Round Table
The Yearling
Black Beauty
The Bronze Bow
Kidnapped
The Hiding Place
The Lord of the Rings
Mary Poppins
Banner in the Sky
*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Around the World
in 80 Days*
*Listening for Lions (a story about an orphaned missionary
girl in Africa)*