

# Summer Reading Assignments - Grade 8

Dear Eighth Grade Parents:

This year's summer reading list was created with one major purpose in mind - to encourage students to become recreational readers. We want our students to discover how enriching and entertaining reading for fun can be. We would encourage each of you to help your student find those books on the provided list that will best appeal to his or her tastes and interests. They should all be available at major bookstores and libraries. We would also encourage each of you to read at least one of the chosen books yourself, so that you can discuss it with your student. Remember, students become good readers by having good reading modeled for them at home and at school.

## The Requirements:

1. Read the book, Redwall by Brian Jacques. Matthias, a clumsy young mouse has big dreams of becoming a warrior. The only thing that can save Redwall is a true warrior. The little mouse quickly learns that's a title that must be earned. After finishing the book, complete the attached assignment.
2. Read the book, Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt. A moving story of the Civil War and one boy who grew up at home. There is one assignment to be done before reading the book and one to be completed after finishing the book.
3. In addition, choose at least 1 other book from the attached list. This book must be one that the student has *never* read before.
4. The assigned summer reading should be returned to school with the student in the fall. **The reports will be the first reading grades of the year.**

**TURN OVER →**

# 8 t h    G R A D E    S U M M E R    R E A D I N G    L I S T

Students entering grade 8 are required to read three books: Redwall, Across Five Aprils and one of their choosing from the list below. All 3 books should be recorded on the Reading Record. There is a Bonus Box for any extra books read.

<u>Lexile</u>	<u>Title of Book</u>	<u>Author</u>
560	Crash . . . . .	Jerry Spinelli
710	Dacey's Song . . . . .	Cynthia Voight
740	Hannah . . . . .	Gloria Whelan
750	Journey to America . . . . .	Sonia Levitin
770	Trouble River . . . . .	Betsy Byars
820	Maniac Magee . . . . .	Jerry Spinelli
830	The Summer of the Swans . . . . .	Betsy Byers
830	Once on this Island . . . . .	Gloria Whelan
850	The Witch of Blackbird Pond . . . . .	Elizabeth George Speare
890	Caddie Woodlawn . . . . .	Carol Ryrie Brink
900	Souder . . . . .	William H. Armstrong
960	A Gathering of Days . . . . .	Joan Blos
970	The Secret Garden . . . . .	Frances Hodgson Burnett
970	The Slave Dancer . . . . .	Paula Fox
990	Landing of the Pilgrims . . . . .	James Daugherty
1000	Island of the Blue Dolphins . . . . .	Scott O'Dell
1070	Save Queen of Sheba . . . . .	Louise Moeri
1110	Lincoln: A Photobiography . . . . .	Russell Freedman
1160	The Prince and the Pauper . . . . .	Mark Twain
Not available	Someone Named Eva . . . . .	Joan Wolf
730	The Devil's Arithmetic . . . . .	Jane Yolen
860	Jip: His Story . . . . .	Katherine Paterson

## Reader's Digest Best Loved Books For Young Readers

Little Women . . . . .	Louisa May Alcott
The Great Cases of Sherlock Holmes . . . . .	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Call of the Wild . . . . .	Jack London
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood . . . . .	Howard Pyle
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer . . . . .	Mark Twain
The Jungle Books . . . . .	Mark Twain
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea . . . . .	Jules Verne

## Book Series (lexiles vary)

	<u>Author</u>
Carter House Girls Series (available from CBD) . . . . .	Melody Carlson
Chronicles of Narnia Series . . . . .	C.S. Lewis
Forbidden Door Series (available from CBD) . . . . .	Bill Myers
Kingdom Series (available from CBD) . . . . .	<b>Chuck Black</b>
Lord of the Rings Series . . . . .	J.R.R. Tolkien
Passport to Danger Series (some) . . . . .	Mary Reeves Bell
Seven Sleeper Series (available from CBD) . . . . .	Gilbert Morris

**PARENTS:** Where available, lexile scores have been provided to help you choose books at the appropriate reading level for your child. Your child should read in a range from 100 less to 50 more than the lexile score shown on the SAT results.

# 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING RECORD

Please return this page to your teacher on the 1st day of 8th Grade.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the following books over the summer:

Title of Book	Author	# pages
1. Redwall	Brian Jacques	
2. Across Five Aprils	Irene Hunt	
3.		

BONUS BOX: List any extra books you may have read.

Title of Book	Author	# pages

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Redwall Assignment

### Part 1

Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to use pen and your best handwriting or you may type the assignment. Skip a line between each question. Each answer must be 8-10 sentences long.

1. Sum up the conflict of the novel.
2. Explain three main events that would be considered the rising action of the novel.
3. What is the climax of Redwall?
4. How are the events you chose for #2 resolved at the end of the novel?
5. Characters in literature can be classified as either dynamic or static characters. A dynamic character is a character who we see change during the course of the novel. A static character is a character who remains essentially the same throughout the novel. Analyze the four following characters: Matthias, Cornflower, Constance, and Warbeak. Which of them is static and which are dynamic? Provide evidence from the novel to support your response.

### Part 2

God often uses unlikely people for specific tasks—those no one else would have chosen (consider Moses, David, and Joseph [son of Jacob]). In what way is Matthias an unlikely choice to lead the Abby? Write a 150 word essay explaining how Matthias is an unlikely choice, and how he might compare to one of God's unlikely choices.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Across Five Aprils Assignment

### BEFORE YOU READ:

1. Choose one of the following court cases or laws:
  - a. The Missouri Compromise
  - b. Kansas-Nebraska Act
  - c. Dred Scott Case
2. Look up information and write a good paragraph (10-15 sentences) explaining how the case attempted to resolve slavery issues. Make a bibliographical notation of where you got your information.

### AFTER YOU READ:

#### Part 1

1. Choose 1 of the following people:
  - a. Jefferson Davis
  - b. Robert E. Lee
  - c. Ulysses S. Grant
  - d. George Meade
  - e. William Tecumseh Sherman
  - f. Abraham Lincoln
2. Create a resume for the person, describing at least 3 major accomplishments during the Civil War. Be sure to include date of birth/death and which side of the Civil War he fought on.

#### Part 2

Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to use pen and your best handwriting or you may type the assignment. Skip a line between each question.

1. In 5-7 sentences, sum up the conflict.
2. The following are common forms of conflict. Which of these forms of conflict (can be more than one) best describe the conflict in Across Five Aprils? Why? (7-10 sentences)
  - a. Man vs. Man: Characters struggle against each other.
  - b. Man vs. Himself: Characters' struggle is internal—a struggle against character flaws, for example.
  - c. Man vs. Nature: Characters struggle for survival against the forces of nature.
  - d. Man vs. Society: Characters struggle against social rules or laws, usually shown as unjust.
  - e. Man vs. God: Characters struggle against God.
3. What complications form the rising action? (5-8 sentences)
4. What is the climax? (4-6 sentences)
5. What is the resolution?