

RCPS Eighth Grade Summer Reading List

Summer 2016

TITLE	AUTHOR	SUMMARY	LEXILE	GENRE
<i>Golden Boy</i>	Tara Sullivan	Thirteen-year-old Habo has always been different - light eyes, yellow hair and white skin. Not the good brown skin his family has and not the white skin of tourists. Habo is strange and alone. His father, unable to accept Habo, abandons the family; his mother can scarcely look at him. His brothers are cruel and the other children never invite him to play. Only his sister Asu loves him well. But even Asu can't take the sting away when the family is forced from their small Tanzanian village, and Habo knows he is to blame. Seeking refuge in Mwanza, Habo and his family journey across the Serengeti. His aunt is glad to open her home until she sees Habo for the first time, and then she is only afraid. Suddenly, Habo has a new word for himself: Albino. But they hunt Albinos in Mwanza because Albino body parts are thought to bring good luck. And soon Habo is being hunted by a fearsome man with a machete. To survive, Habo must not only run, but find a way to love and accept himself.	820L	Fiction
<i>Stargirl</i>	Jerry Spinelli	Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love. From the Hardcover edition.	590L	Fiction
<i>Revolution</i>	Deborah Wiles	Readers are given two viewpoints from very different worlds during the tumultuous Freedom Summer of 1964 in Greenwood, Mississippi. Sunny, a 12 year old white girl, is worried about reports of "invaders" descending upon the sleepy Southern town and causing trouble. Meanwhile, Raymond, a black youth, is becoming increasingly aware of all the places, especially the public pool and Leflore's theater, he is barred from due to Jim Crow laws. As their worldviews expand and they begin to learn more about the sinister side of a seemingly perfect town, Sunny's and Raymond's stories intersect.	840L	Fiction
<i>With Their Eyes: The View from a High School at Ground Zero</i>	Taresh Batra	I could have died that day. September 11, 2001 Monologues from Stuyvesant High School Tuesday, September 11, started off like any other day at Stuyvesant High School, located only a few blocks away from the World Trade Center. The semester was just beginning, and the students, faculty, and staff were ready to begin a new year. But within a few hours on that Tuesday morning, they would all share an experience that transformed their lives. Now, on the tenth anniversary of September 11th, we remember those who were lost and those who were forced to witness this tragedy. Here, in their own words, are the firsthand stories of a day we will never forget.	1000L	Non-Fiction
<i>Discovering Wes Moore</i>	Wes Moore	Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart and within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods. Both ran into trouble with the police. How did one grow up to be a Rhodes scholar and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? When Wes Moore wrote to his namesake in prison, they began a remarkable friendship. This story looks at the challenges of growing up and the power of the choices that people make in their lives.	840L	Non-Fiction
<i>Elijah of Buxton</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known for having made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass, but that changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the thief and discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled--a life from which he'll always be free, if he can find the courage to get back home.	1070L	Historical Fiction
<i>This Journal Belongs to Ratchet</i>	Nancy J. Cavanaugh	It's the first day of school for all the kids in the neighborhood. But not for Ratchet; she's homeschooled. That means nothing new. No new book bag, no new clothes, and no friends, old or new. The best she's got is her notebook. She's supposed to use it for her writing assignments, but her dad never checks. Here's what she's really going to use it for: a top-secret plan to turn her old, recycled, freakish, friendless, motherless life into something shiny and new.	830L	Fiction