



Summer Reading Recommendations for Rising 8th Graders

Dear Parents,

Reading over the summer will give our BTCS students HUGE benefits in reading proficiency as well as gaining content knowledge in all other subjects. We encourage you to take advantage of any and all opportunities to give your child access to books over the summer break and to prevent learning loss.

Prevent Summer Learning Loss

Have your child read at least
20 MINUTES PER DAY



Students who read **20 minutes** a day score in the **90th percentile**

Students who read **5 minutes** a day score only in the **50th percentile**

* Anne E. Cunningham and Keith E. Stanovich, "What Reading Does for the Mind," The American Federation of Teachers, American Educator, Vol. 22, No. 1-2, pp. 8-15.

Visit  the  **Library.**

Find reasons for your child to **practice** writing skills.

Write...
a book, a blog, a zine, a poem

Engage in meaningful conversations with your child.

Stimulating conversations boost language skills.

Quick Conversation Tips:

1. Ask questions.
2. Be positive.
3. Give your full attention.
4. Be encouraging.

Audio Books

Instead of listening to **music**, listen to **audio books** during **long drives**.

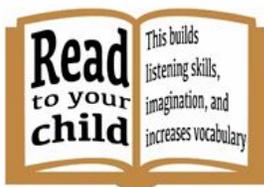
Model Reading Behavior

If your child sees you reading, they will want to read as well.



Read to your child

This builds listening skills, imagination, and increases vocabulary



Learn a new word each week.

Post the new word with its definition and have a contest for who can use it the most times in one week.

Reciprocity

Plethora

Fait Accompli

Erudition

Equanimity

Panacea

COOK

with your child



Have your child follow a recipe. This enhances both reading and math skills.

Below is a list of books for independent reading that support 8th grade language arts content. The following novels cover many of the same topics and themes you will see throughout the year in 8th grade ELA. Reading one or two of the novels from this list will provide you with additional perspective on the subjects we will study.

Unit 1- Rites of Passage

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer

Sixteen – year – old Jenna goes on a road trip with her elderly boss, Mrs. Gladstone, to save the store where they work from a takeover.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque.

A young man and his friends enlist in the army. They face more than they expected as they fight the battles of World War I.

Unit 2- The Holocaust

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

Hannah, a young girl who doesn't want to study the Holocaust, is swept back in time from the present to 1942 Poland.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

In this tragic story, two boys meet at the fence of a concentration camp – one inside, one out.

Unit 3- What Matters

Does My Head Look Big in This? By Randa Abdel – Fattah

A teenage Muslim girl decides to start wearing a hijab regularly.

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

During World War II, the American government imprisons Jeanne and her family for their Japanese ancestry.

Unit 4- Human Intelligence

A Mango – Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

Mia has a condition called synesthesia, in which sound and numbers seem to have color to her.

Queen's Own Fool by Jane Yolen

Nicola, a court jester, helps Mary Queen of Scots during her troubled reign.

Unit 5- Invention

The Time Machine by H. G. Wells

A man invents a time machine and takes it into the far future where he encounters a superficially heavenly but truly horrifying civilization.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne

In the late 1800s, a professor is captured by a man who has built an incredibly advanced submarine. Together they embark on adventures across the ocean.