**8th Grade Summer Reading Selections**

Choose 1 book to read from the list.

**More Challenging**

**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak (Historical Fiction)
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel -a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer (Science Fiction)
Matteo Alacran was not born; he was harvested with the DNA from El Patron, lord of a country called Opium. Can a boy who was bred to guarantee another’s survival find his own purpose in life? And can he ever be free?

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Written in verse)
"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (Realistic/Sports Fiction)
After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.
**Zlata’s Diary** by Zlata Fillpovic (Nonfiction)
As a child living in Sarajevo during the war, Zlata learns what it is like to lose friends and family and to fear for her life. Throughout the war, Zlata keeps her diary faithfully and shows her courage as her world falls apart around her.

**Everlost** by Neal Shusterman (Fantasy Fiction)
When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where, although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

**Payback Time** by Carl Deuker (Realistic/Sports Fiction)
Overweight, somewhat timid Mitch reluctantly agrees to be the sports reporter for the Lincoln High newspaper because he is determined to be a writer, but he senses a real story in Angel, a talented football player who refuses to stand out on the field--or to discuss his past.

**Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott (Classical Literature)
*Little Women* is an American classic, adored for Louisa May Alcott's lively and vivid portraits of the endearing March sisters: talented tomboy Jo, pretty Meg, shy Beth, temperamental Amy. Millions have shared in their joys, hardships, and adventures as they grow up in Civil War New England, separated by the war from their father and beloved mother, "Marmee," blossoming from "little women" into adults.

**The Running Dream** by Wendelin Van Draanen (Realistic Fiction)
When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.
**War Horse** by Michael Morpurgo (Adventure, Historical Fiction)
In 1914, Joey, a beautiful bay-red foal with a distinctive cross on his nose, is sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With his officer, he charges toward the enemy, witnessing the horror of the battles in France. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him and he is able to find warmth and hope. But his heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind. Will he ever see his true master again?

**Trapped** by Michael Northrop (Realistic Fiction)
Seven high school students are stranded at their New England high school during a week-long blizzard that shuts down the power and heat, freezes the pipes, and leaves them wondering if they will survive.

**Uglies** by Scott Westerfeld (Science Fiction)
Tally is faced with a hard choice when friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen-year-old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn’t like.

**Fever** by Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical Fiction)
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

**Chasing Lincoln's Killer** by James Swanson (Nonfiction)
Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.
*Trash* by Andy Mulligan (Mystery)
A group of fourteen year old boys, who make a living picking garbage from the outskirts of a large city, find something special and mysterious that brings terrifying consequences.

**20 Leagues Under the Sea** by Jules Verne (Classics, Science Fiction)
A character named Professor Aronnax narrates this sweeping undersea epic, considered by many to be one of the greatest adventures of all time. Aronnax bravely agrees to investigate a mysterious sea monster, only to discover it is actually an enormous high-tech submarine. When he boards the vessel, run by Captain Nemo, he learns the story of the submarine's fantastic voyage from the lost continent of Atlantis to the South Pole. Remarkable descriptions of sunken ships, never-before-seen creatures of the deep, and wonderful inventions are even better when you know that they are entirely the product of the author's imagination; he wrote the book before submarines existed!