



A Community of Readers 2017

The List for Grade 8

The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, *fiction*

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, *fiction*

Set during World War II, this is the story of a girl who shares stolen books with a Jewish man hiding from the Nazis.

City of Bones by Cassandra Clare, *fiction*

Fifteen-year-old Clary Fray finds herself thrown into a world she never knew existed and learns the truth about her past.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine, *fiction*

A sensible girl with an unfortunate curse whose con artist father has lost all their money is forced to live at the beck and call of a selfish step-family. And then a prince falls in love with her!

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein, *fiction*

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library designed by his hero, a famous gamemaker, but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Faceless by Alyssa Sheinmel, *fiction*

After a terrible accident, a girl receives a face transplant and, when she can't recognize herself in the mirror, feels she doesn't know who she is anymore.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds, *fiction*

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team, but his past keeps catching up with him.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill, *fiction*

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien, *fiction*

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, but his contentment is disturbed when a wizard and a company of dwarves show up one day to whisk him away on an adventure.

Hour of the Bees by Lindsey Eager, *fiction*

At first, Carol is not happy to spend the summer helping her parents move her grandfather to an assisted living home, but she soon finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by his amazing stories.

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I Am the Messenger by Markus Zusak, *fiction*

A cabdriver without much of a future leads a life of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when he becomes the messenger.

The Inquisitor's Tale by Adam Gidwitz, *fiction*

Three children and their holy dog end up on an adventure in medieval France filled with miracles, saints, knights, and dragons.

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas, *fiction*

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

Paper Towns by John Green, *fiction*

By the author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, this novel tells the story of a boy who must try to solve the mysterious disappearance of the girl he loves.

Riders by Veronica Rossi, *fiction*

While recovering from the accident that most definitely killed him, Gideon finds himself with strange new powers and a bizarre cuff he can't remove. His death has brought to life his real destiny.

Scythe by Neal Shusterman, *fiction*

In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed by professional reapers, and while two teens must compete for this job, neither one wants to do it.

Soar by Joan Bauer, *fiction*

Moving to Ohio when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to find a baseball team to coach.

The Thing about Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin, *fiction*

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory-- even if it means traveling the globe, alone.

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher, *fiction*

In a strange package with his name on it, a boy discovers several cassette tapes recorded by his classmate who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Her voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. He is one of them.

The Victory Garden by Lee Kochenderfer, *fiction*

During World War II, a girl and her father plant a victory garden to assist the war effort and to speed her older brother's return from overseas.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio, *fiction*

This story of a fifth grader with a deformity shows how his classmates and his teachers react to him during his first year at his new school.

Zebra Forest by Adina Rishe Gewirtz, *fiction*

Inspired by her grandmother, a girl delights in making up wild stories, but then her real life takes a terrifying turn, calling into question everything she thought she knew.