

## Eighth Grade Reading List

These books are based on our 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. They will provide the student with supplementary background knowledge for the upcoming year.

**\*ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY** by Mildred Taylor Story of a land-owning African American family living in rural Mississippi in the 1930s, and how they cope with mounting white oppression and racism.

**\* UNDER THE SAME SKY** by Cynthia DeFelice. A well paced story told with sensitivity, humor, and reflection that shows the need for understanding and tolerance of migrant workers. The story will make readers rethink their own prejudices.

**Warriors Don't Cry** by Melba Pattilo Beals and Anne Greenberg. Follows the courageous story of Melba Pattilo, one of the nine brave African American teens who were chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School after the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education ruling.

**Forgotten Fire** by Adam Bagdasarian. This is a story of a wealthy Armenian in Turkey who loses everything including his family and how he survives with incredible strength and spirit in the face of terrible times.

**Dancing at the Rascal Fair** by Ivan Doig. An authentic saga of the American experience at the turn of the century and a passionate portrayal of the immigrants who dared to try new lives in the imposing Rocky Mountains. The central volume in the *Montana* trilogy.

**The Time Machine** by HG Wells. When a turn of the century scientist travels into the distant future in his time machine, he expects to find progress and superior people, but instead discovers a world in decay.

**When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit** by Judith Kerr. A Jewish family is forced to flee Germany and overcome the difficulties of their refugee life.

**River Boy** by Tim Bowler. The author uses the river , a natural metaphor for life and death, to wonderful effect in this lovely simple story.

**The Big Burn** by Jeanette Ingold. Set in the summer of 1910, this story is based on one of the biggest wildfires of the century, an event that altered the face of Montana and Idaho, changed the way we fight wildfires, and dramatically transformed the people on the front lines forever.

**The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen** by Lloyd Alexander. The Chinese emperor's son has many adventures as he travels to a mysterious kingdom.

**Liberty** by Lynn Curlee. Uncover the history and construction of one of the most famous symbols of the United States.

**The World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller** by Joan Dash. Despite the double handicaps of deafness and blindness, Helen Keller is portrayed as a very lively and intelligent, sometimes stubborn and vulnerable woman of accomplishment.

**Nelson Mandela: No Easy Walk to Freedom** by Barry Deneberg. Chronicles the life and imprisonment of the South African leader.

**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This collection recounts 12 masterful tales by the father of detective fiction.

**All Things Bright and Beautiful** by James Herriot. An English veterinarian reminisces about his life, career, and animal patients in an English village..

**The Rose Round** by Meriol Trevor. This is the story of young Matt and his older sister. A Catholic classic which speaks powerfully of forgiveness and reconciliation.

**Escape from Egypt: A Novel** by Sonia Levitin. When Moses comes to the Promised Land, Jesse, a slave, finds his life changed by his growing faith In God and his friendship with half-Egyptian, half-Syrian, Jennat.

**Marie Curie, a Life** by Susan Quinn. This biography highlights the events in the life of the Nobel Prize winning scientist.

**The Upstairs Room** by Johanna Reiss. A story of a young Jewish child who was forced to hide in Holland from the Nazis.

**Under the Blood Red Sun** by Graham Salisbury. After the attack of Pearl Harbor, an American born son of immigrants must become the man of the house when his father is arrested.

**20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** by Jules Verne. A 19<sup>th</sup> century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and the undersea world.

**Cheaper By the Dozen** by Frank Gilbreth. This lighthearted book is about the lively adventures of a family of twelve.

**\*Required Reading**