

## Summer Reading List : 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Assignment:** Choose at least 3 books from the list to read during the summer break. You must choose at least one fiction and one non-fiction. Then, take and pass (with an 80%) the AR quiz for that book. You must take and pass three quizzes between June 25<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Nonfiction:



#### ***Secrets of a Civil War Submarine* (AR 8.2)**

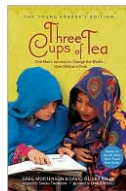
BY SALLY WALKER

FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, A SUBMARINE LAY BURIED ON THE OCEAN FLOOR NEAR CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. THIS CIVIL WAR WEAPON—THE *H. L. Hunley*—MADE HISTORY IN 1864 AS THE FIRST SUBMARINE EVER TO SINK AN ENEMY SHIP. BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG DURING THAT DARING MISSION. THE *Hunley* NEVER RETURNED TO PORT.

#### ***Three Cups of Tea***

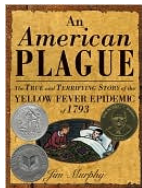
BY GREG MORTENSON

IN 1993, WHILE EVENTUALLY FOUND HELP BUILDING A SCHOOL.



#### ***One Man's Journey to Change the World* (AR 6.1)**

CLIMBING ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DIFFICULT PEAKS, MORTENSON BECAME LOST AND ILL, AND IN THE TINY PAKISTANI VILLAGE OF KOPPE. HE VOWED TO REPAY HIS GENEROUS HOSTS BY



#### ***An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793* (AR 9)**

BY JIM MURPHY

1793, PHILADELPHIA, THE NATION'S CAPITAL AND THE LARGEST CITY IN NORTH AMERICA IS DEVASTATED BY AN APPARENTLY INCURABLE DISEASE, CAUSE UNKNOWN . . .

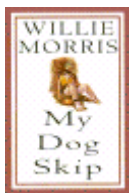
#### ***Cuts* (AR 6.5)**

BY GARY PAULSEN  
REAL-LIFE SURVIVAL



PAULSEN

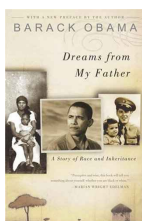
ADVENTURER PAULSEN REVEALS THE ACTUAL EVENTS THAT INSPIRED HIM TO WRITE *Hatchet* AND THE OTHER STORIES ABOUT BRIAN ROBESON.



#### ***My Dog Skip* (7.1)**

BY WILLIE MORRIS

THE STORY OF A DOG AND HIS CLOSEST COMPANION, THE AUTHOR, DURING THEIR GROWING YEARS IN A SMALL TOWN IN MISSISSIPPI.

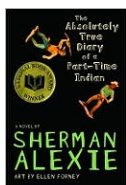


#### ***Dreams From My Father* (AR 7.1)**

BY BARACK OBAMA

THIS LYRICAL, UNSENTIMENTAL, AND POWERFULLY AFFECTING MEMOIR TELLS THE STORY OF OBAMA'S STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND THE FORCES THAT SHAPED HIM AS THE SON OF A BLACK AFRICAN FATHER AND WHITE AMERICAN MOTHER—a STRUGGLE THAT TAKES HIM FROM THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND TO THE ANCESTRAL HOME OF HIS GREAT-AUNT IN THE TINY AFRICAN VILLAGE OF NLEGO.

### FICTION:



#### ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (AR 4)**

by Sherman Alexie

**JUNIOR**, a budding cartoonist, is determined to take his future into his own hands. He leaves his school on the Spokane Indian reservation to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.



***The Face on the Milk Carton* (AR 4.8)**

By Caroline Cooney

When 15-year old Janie spots her own face in the "missing child" photo on the side of a milk carton, she begins to question her entire past.



***Skulduggery Pleasant* (AR 4.9)**

By Derek Landy

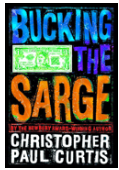
SKULDUGGERY, an ace-detective, and walking, talking skeleton leads Stephanie Edgley, an unusual and talented 12-year-old, to defeat an all-consuming ancient evil.



***The Broken Chicken Emergency* (AR 4.9)**

By Daniel Pinkwater

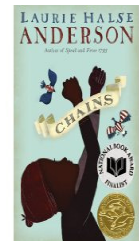
ARTHUR goes to pick up the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner but comes back with a 260 pound chicken.



***Bucking the Sarge* (AR 5.8)**

By Christopher Paul Curtis

LUTHER keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home for Men, all the while dreaming of going to college.



***Chains* (AR 5.2)**

By Laurie Halse Anderson

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave who ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners.

***Mister Monday*  
By Garth Nix**

Seven days,  
unlock a number



***(The Keys to the Kingdom Series)* (AR 5.9)**

seven keys and one mysterious doorway to a very mysterious world where one boy is about to of fantastical secrets.



***The Last Invisible Boy* (AR 5.4)**

By Evan Kuhlman

FOLLOWING the death of his father, Finn Garrett wakes one morning to find a white hair and is sure that he is slowly becoming invisible. Laugh-out-loud funny at times, and sad and serious at others, Finn and his family experience both grief and recovery.

***The Juice*  
By Gordon Korman**

Three boys

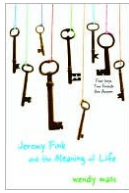


***The Juice* (AR 4.9)**

Korman

are serving time in juvenile detention centers until they get a second chance at life in the form

of Douglas Healy. A former juvenile delinquent himself, Healy is running an experimental halfway house in New York City where he wants to make a difference in the lives of kids like Gecko, Terence, and Arjay.



***Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* (AR 4.5)**

By Wendy Mass

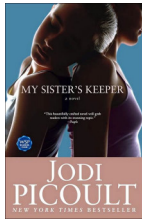
JEREMY MYSTERIOUSLY RECEIVES FOUR KEYS AND AN ENGRAVED BOX IN THE MAIL. THE BOX CLAIMS TO OFFER THE MEANING OF LIFE. HE AND HIS FRIEND, LIZZIE, FOLLOW CLUES THAT LEAD THEM TO POWERFUL ANSWERS ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE PAST.



***The First Part Last* (AR 4.7)**

By Angela Johnson

BOBBY IS RESTLESS. HE'S IMPULSIVE. BUT THE THING THAT MAKES HIM DIFFERENT IS THIS: HE'S GOING TO BE A FATHER. HIS GIRLFRIEND, NIA, IS PREGNANT, AND THEIR LIVES ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER. INSTEAD OF SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS, THEY'LL BE SPENDING TIME WITH DOCTORS, AND NEXT, DIAPERS. THEY HAVE OPTIONS: KEEPING THE BABY, ADOPTION. THEY WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING. IF ONLY IT WAS CLEAR WHAT THE RIGHT THING WAS.

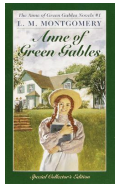


***My Sister's Keeper* (AR 5.3)**

By Jodi Picoult

CONCEIVED IN VITRO, 13-YEAR-OLD ANNA FITZGERALD HAS DECIDED TO SUE HER PARENTS TO STOP THEM FROM USING HER AS "SPARE PARTS" FOR HER OLDER SISTER, KATE, WHO SUFFERS FROM LEUKEMIA. AFTER YEARS OF HAVING HER BONE MARROW AND BLOOD USED TO KEEP KATE ALIVE, ANNA NOW REFUSES TO DONATE A KIDNEY AND STRIVES FOR HER OWN PERSONAL FREEDOM. SHE HIRES A LAWYER TO REPRESENT HER AND TAKES HER PARENTS TO COURT.

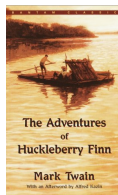
**Classics:**



***Anne of Green Gables* (AR 3.5)**

By L.M. Montgomery

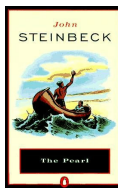
WHEN MATTHEW CUTHBERT GOES TO THE TRAIN STATION TO PICK UP THE ORPHAN HE AND HIS SISTER MARILLA PLAN TO ADOPT, HE EXPECTS TO MEET A BOY WHO CAN HELP ON THE FAMILY FARM. INSTEAD, IT'S ANNE: A TALKATIVE, DREAMY, RED-HAIRED, FRECKLE-FACED, ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD WHO TRANSFORMS THE CUTHBERTS' LIFE FOREVER.



***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (AR 6.6)**

By Mark Twain

HUCKLEBERRY FINN HAD A TOUGH LIFE WITH HIS DRUNK FATHER UNTIL AN ADVENTURE WITH TOM SAWYER CHANGED EVERYTHING. BUT WHEN HUCK'S DAD RETURNS AND KIDNAPS HIM, HE MUST ESCAPE DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WITH RUNAWAY SLAVE, JIM. THEY ENCOUNTER TROUBLE AT EVERY TURN, FROM FLOODS AND GUNFIGHTS TO ARMED BANDITS AND THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW.



***The Pearl* (AR 7.1)**

By John Steinbeck

KINO, A POOR MEXICAN PEARL FISHER, FINDS A VALUABLE PEARL THAT PROMISES A BETTER LIFE FOR HIS IMPOVERISHED FAMILY. YET INSTEAD OF BRINGING BLESSINGS, THE PEARL AROUSES THE GREED IN HIM AND HIS NEIGHBORS AND ACTS AS A HARBINGER OF MISFORTUNE TO KINO AND HIS WIFE, JUANA.