

Barberton Middle School
Rising 8th Grade
2011 Summer Reading List

Welcome to the 8th Grade!

The teachers at Barberton Middle School would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to 8th grade. We are looking forward to meeting each and every one of you. We anticipate your 8th grade year will be one that you will long remember, and we hope your classes will be intellectually stimulating and academically rewarding (and fun). We consider it important that you keep your math and reading skills sharp in order to maintain the gains that you made this past academic year- we do not want your hard work to go to waste.

Your math teachers have developed packets to help you with this process and you are encouraged to do them over the course of your long summer vacation.

At Barberton Middle School, we believe that summer reading is an essential part of education and your growth as an adolescent. Summer reading enables students to continue being active readers and thoughtful writers while also preparing them for the upcoming 8th grade school year.

This summer we recommend all incoming 8th grade students read at least two of the novels on the list provided and complete the two assignments described below. We will be addressing these assignments the first week of school.

The novels are available at the Barberton Public Library or at a local bookstore or at the Barberton Board of Education (contact Elissa Young, Curriculum Specialist, at 330-753-1025).

Above all, have a wonderful time this summer!

Rising 8th Grade
Summer Reading Activities
Summer 2010

Assignment #1 Choose one book (Book #1) from the list. After reading your book, respond to **all five** topics (character, conflict, quotation, reaction, association). Each response should use appropriate writing style (correct spelling, grammar, punctuation) and be at least five sentences long. See additional guidelines and examples below.

1. **Character**- Identify the major characters and explain how they communicate the meaning of the book. You might include:
 - descriptions of major characters;
 - an explanation of the relationships among the characters;
 - the ways in which the author connects readers to characters.

2. **Conflict**- Identify and explain major conflicts in the book. You might include:
 - the problems, challenges, questions or dilemmas the characters face;
 - the morals, values and judgments that make a character's decision-making difficult.

3. **Quotation** – Select and write about an important quote. To explain the quote's importance, you might include information about:
 - who is speaking to whom;
 - what the quote refers to in the story;
 - how the quote is connected to the “big” meaning for the book. In other words, tell why the quote is “important.”

4. **Reaction** – Describe your reaction to the book. A reaction might include:
 - what thoughts or feelings you had about the book when you first started reading it;
 - whether or not the book grabbed your attention right away or was “hard to get into;”
 - how your thoughts changed as you read the book;
 - whether you felt as though you never wanted to the book to end or whether it seemed to do on and on;
 - which ways, if any, the book made you think about life in a new way.

5. **Association** – Describe the ways in which the book can be connected to the thoughts or experiences of others. Details might include:
 - ways in which the book reminds you of other people, places or events;
 - similarities to other books you've read;
 - connections you make the book and a movie.

Example: *Character topic*

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Character:

Jean Louise Finch (AKA Scout)- narrator of the story and daughter of the town's most honorable citizen. Though very young, Scout learns about prejudice, fairness, and the value of her father's good reputation.

Jeremy Finch (AKA Jem)- Scout's older brother, quiet and thoughtful, wanting to live up to the high standards set by his father.

Atticus Finch- widowed father of Scout and Jem, a very honest lawyer in a small town in 1930s Alabama. Tries to teach his children to be fair and live by high standards no matter what anyone else says or does.

Calpurnia- housekeeper for the Finch family. Since their mother died, Calpurnia offers the "feminine touch"

Example: *Conflict topic*

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Conflict:

Discrimination and prejudice- When Tom Robinson is accused of rape, the town pretty much believes that he is guilty. This is due to the fact that he is black and most of the townspeople are white. It is pretty clear that Tom will not get a fair trial in the town. Atticus tries to break against this prejudice by taking on the job of defense attorney. This causes more conflict for Jem and Scout because the kids at school call Atticus names for representing Tom Robinson. Jem gets into fights trying to defend Atticus.

Loss of innocence- Jem and Scout lose some of their innocence with all the events of Tom's trial, but it is made up by the new respect they have for Atticus never giving into the hate of the townspeople or letting them bother Boo Radley.

Example: *Quotation topic*

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Quotation: “There is one way in this country in which all men are created equal- there is one human institution that makes a pauper that equal of a Rockefeller, the stupid man the equal of an Einstein, and the ignorant man the equal of any college president. That institution...is the court.”

This quote is said by Atticus to the jury near the end of Tom Robinson’s trial. It shows what Atticus really believes- that everyone deserves justice no matter if they are rich, poor, black, white, educated or not. Atticus tried to get the jury to understand the need to be fair and see the truth that he had uncovered. Atticus really lived this in all he did for people, not just by being a lawyer in court. He treated people fairly and with respect, which earned the respect of most of the people in town. Some people, however, would never understand that lesson because of their own prejudice (like Bob Ewell).

Example: *Reaction topic*

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Reaction: After Atticus showed all the ways that it was wrong to blame Tom for the rape and beating of Mayella, after he made it clear that Tom could not have committed that crime, and the amazing speech Atticus gave, I could not believe the jury decided Tom was guilty. I was angry and shocked. But it got even more unbelievable when it was announced that Tom was dead from trying to escape from jail. I had a hard time understanding the language in the book at the beginning because of the funny way of writing, but I couldn’t put the book down once Atticus agreed to represent Tom in court. I really loved this book!

Example : *Association topic*

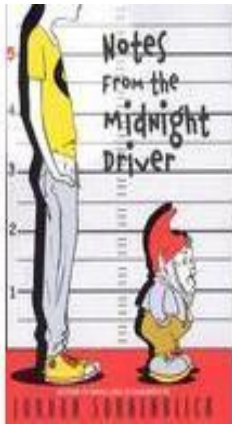
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Association: In a way, this book reminded me of The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd, because there are characters who are treated very badly for no good reason- Tom Robinson and Boo Radley and Lily is abused by her father in Bees. That convinces her to run away to try to find her mother. Tom and Boo could not run away, so that is not the same. Both books have a huge part that takes place in the South. That is not the only connection, though. I don’t understand why people can’t treat other people with respect and see them as they really are instead of seeing them through foolish prejudices. I guess that’s what makes for a good book, though- since if it was all “happily ever after” I might get bored.

Assignment #2 For your other book (Book #2), create a vocabulary list. Create a list of 15 words from the novel that are new to you or you are unsure of the meaning as it is used in the book. You can use the attached worksheet to write down the vocabulary terms or develop your own. Your list needs to have:

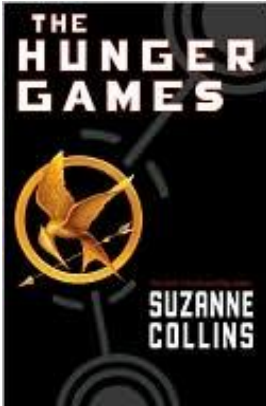
- The word
- The page number where the word can be found
- The sentence the word was used in (in the book). Place the book sentence in quotes.
- The dictionary definition of word
- What you think the word means based on context clues

Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading Lists



Notes From a Midnight Driver By Jordan Sonnenblick
Genre: Fiction

16-year-old Alex decides to get even. His parents are separated, his father is dating his former third-grade teacher, and being 16 isn't easy, especially when it comes to girls. Instead of revenge though, Alex ends up in trouble with the law and is ordered to do community service at a senior center where he is assigned to Solomon Lewis, a "difficult" senior with a lot of gusto, advice for Alex, and a puzzling (yet colorful) Yiddish vocabulary. Eventually, the pair learn to deal with their past and each other in ways that are humorous, entertaining, and life-changing.



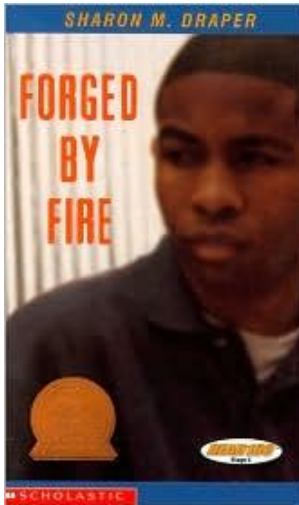
The Hunger Games By Suzanne Collins
Genre: Science Fiction and Fantasy

Katniss is a 16-year-old girl living with her mother and younger sister in the poorest district of Panem, the remains of what used be the United States. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games." The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed. When Kat's sister is chosen by lottery, Kat steps up to go in her place.



If I Stay
By Gayle Forman
Genre: Realistic Fiction

In the blink of an eye everything changes. Seventeen year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall what happened afterwards, watching her own damaged body being taken from the wreck. Little by little she struggles to put together the pieces- to figure out what she has lost, what she has left, and the very difficult choice she must make. Heart-wrenchingly beautiful, Mia's story will stay with you for a long, long time.



Forged by Fire

By Sharon Draper

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Will Gerald find the courage to stand up to his stepfather? When his loving aunt dies, Gerald suddenly is thrust into a new home filled with anger and abuse. A brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil secret makes Gerald miserable, and the only light in his grim life is Angel, his young stepsister. Gerald and Angel grow close as he strives to protect her from Jordan, his abusive stepfather, and from their substance-addicted mother. But Gerald learns, painfully, that his post can't be extinguished, and that he must be strong enough to face Jordan in a final confrontation, once and for all....



Touching Spirit Bear

By Ben Mikaelson

Genre: Fiction

Will the attack of the Spirit Bear destroy Cole's life or save his soul? Cole Matthews has been fighting, stealing, and raising hell for years. So his punishment for beating Peter Driscall senseless is harsh. Given a choice between prison and Native American Circle Justice, Cole chooses Circle Justice: He'll spend one year in complete isolation on a remote Alaskan island. In the first days of his banishment, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and nearly dies. Now there's no one left to save Cole, but Cole himself.

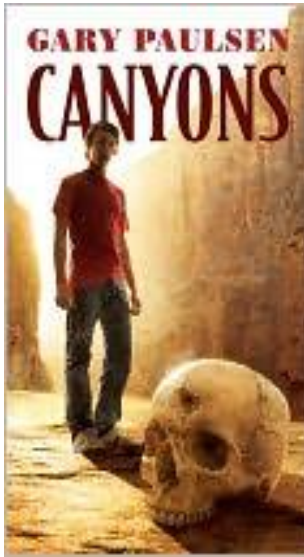


Son of the Mob

By Gordon Korman

Genre: Fiction

Vince Luca is just like any other high school guy. His best friend, Alex, is trying to score vicariously through him; his brother is a giant pain; and his father keeps bugging him to get motivated. There is just one thing that really sets him apart from other kids. His father happens to be the head of a powerful crime organization. Needless to say, while Vince's family's connections can be handy for certain things-like when teachers are afraid to give him a bad grade as they can put a serious crimp in his dating life. How is he supposed to explain to a girl what his father does for a living? But when Vince finally meets one who seems to be worth the trouble, her family turns out to be the biggest problem of all. Because her father is an FBI agent-the one who wants to put his father away for good.



Canyons

By Gary Paulsen

Genre: Fiction

Two boys, separated by the canyons of time and two vastly different cultures, face the challenges by which they become men. Coyote Runs, an Apache boy, takes part in his first raid--the one that will usher him into manhood. He is to be a man for but a short time... More than a hundred years later, while camping near Dog Canyon, fifteen-year-old Brennan Cole becomes obsessed with a skull that he finds, pierced by a bullet. He learns that it was the skull of an Apache boy executed by soldiers in 1864. A mystical link joins Brennan and Coyote Runs, and Brennan knows that neither boy will find any peace until Coyote Runs' skull is returned to an ancient sacred place. In a grueling run through the canyon to return the skull, Brennan faces the challenge of his life.



Crackback

By John Coy

Genre: Sports Fiction

When Miles Manning, a successful high school football player, discovers his teammates are using steroids--and one of them is his best friend--he's faced with a tough decision: Is he willing to do what it takes to win? Football is his life, and his family, especially his dad, is pinning its hopes on him. It's a lot of pressure for a high school junior to bear. This gripping look into the world of high school boys and athletes--and their struggle to be the best--is provocative and searingly honest.

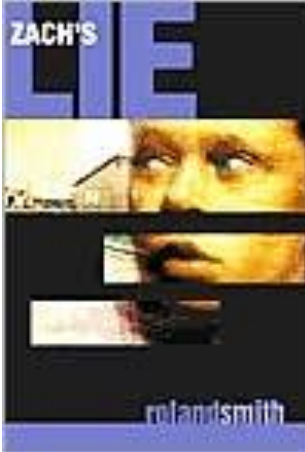


The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites

By Heather Brewer

Genre: Fiction

Vlad has to keep his vampire urges under control while dealing with the pressures of middle school. Thirteen-year-old Vladimir Tod really hates junior high. Bullies harass him, the principal is dogging him, and the girl he likes prefers his best friend. Oh, and Vlad has a secret: His mother was human, but his father was a vampire. With no idea of the extent of his powers, Vlad struggles daily with his blood cravings and his enlarged fangs. When a substitute teacher begins to question him a little too closely, Vlad worries that his cover is about to be blown. But then he faces a much bigger problem: He's being hunted by a vampire killer.



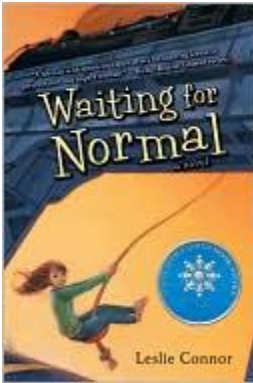
Zach's Lie

By Roland Smith

Genre: Fiction

Jack Osborne's life changes forever the night men in masks break into his house, threaten Jack and his family, and ransack their home. Jack then discovers the reason these men have come into their lives-his father has been arrested for drug trafficking. Jack, his mother, and his sister are then forced to enter Witness Security Program. Jack becomes "Zach" and moves to Elko, Nevada, a town in the middle of nowhere. There he meets Sam, the strangest school custodian he has ever encountered, and Catalin, a girl who might make Zach's uprooting worth the trouble. But just as

Zach finally begins to piece together a new life, he finds himself in danger again-and this time his actions could determine the fates of everyone he cares about.

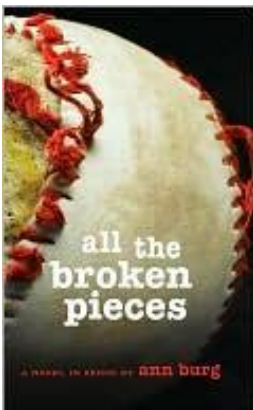


Waiting for Normal

By Leslie Connor

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mother has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, her way or no way. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie all to home, where she wants to be with her half sisters. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal.

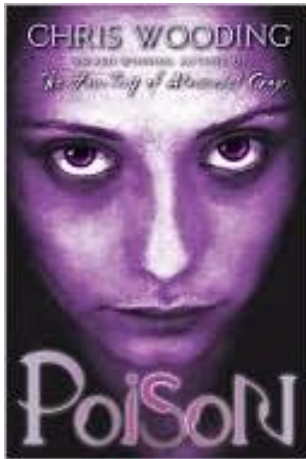


All the Broken Pieces

By Ann E. Burg

Genre: Historical Fiction

Two years after being airlifted out of war-torn Vietnam, Matt Pin is haunted: by bombs that fell like dead crows, by the family -- and the terrible secret -- he left behind. Now, inside a caring adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events force him to choose between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom. By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love.



Poison

By Chris Wooding

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

Poison has always been a willful, contrary girl, prone to being argumentative and stubborn. So when her sister is snatched by the mean-spirited faeries, she seeks out the Phairie Lord to get her back. But finding him isn't easy, and the quest leads Poison into a murderous world of intrigue, danger, and deadly storytelling. With only her wits and her friends to aid her, Poison must survive the attentions of the Phairie Lord, rescue her sister, and thwart a plot that's beyond anything she (or the reader) can imagine.....



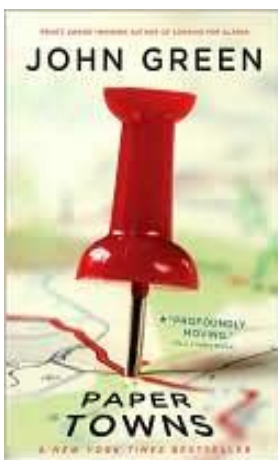
Define Normal

By Julie Ann Peters

Genre: Fiction

Define "Normal" has become a word-of-mouth phenomenon. This is a thoughtful, wry story about two girls—a "punk" and a "priss"—who find themselves facing each other in a peer-counseling program, and discover that they have some surprising things in common.

Rising 8th Grade Suggested Books for Advanced Readers

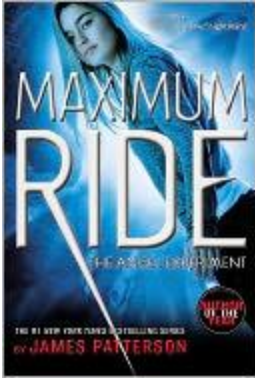


Paper Towns

By John Green

Genre: Fiction

Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificently adventurous Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs back into his life—dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge— he follows. After their all-nighter ends, and a new day breaks, Q arrives at school to discover that Margo, always an enigma, has now become a mystery. But Q soon learns that there are clues— and they're for him. Urged down a disconnected path, the closer he gets, the less Q sees the girl he thought he knew.

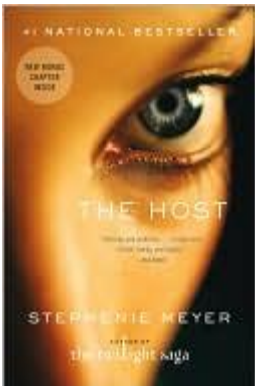


Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment

By James Patterson

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on by a crew of whack jobs. Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, CA, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare--this one involving fighting off the half-human, half-wolf "Erasers" in New York City. Whether in the treetops of Central Park or in the bowels of the Manhattan subway system, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives. Along the way Max discovers from her old friend and father-figure Jeb--now her betrayed and greatest enemy--that her purpose is save the world--but can she?



The Host

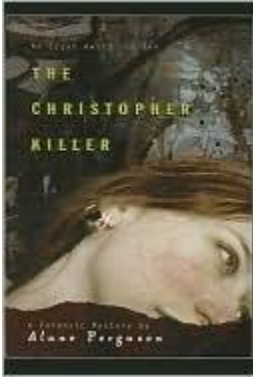
By Stephanie Myers

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

Melanie Stryder refuses to fade away. The earth has been invaded by a species that take over the minds of human hosts while leaving their bodies intact. Wanderer, the invading "soul" who has been given Melanie's body, didn't expect to find its former tenant refusing to relinquish possession of her mind.

As Melanie fills Wanderer's thoughts with visions of Jared, a human who still lives in hiding, Wanderer begins to yearn for a man she's never met. Reluctant allies, Wanderer and Melanie set off to search for the man they both love.

Featuring one of the most unusual love triangles in literature, THE HOST is a riveting and unforgettable novel about the persistence of love and the essence of what it means to be human. (2008)



The Christopher Killer

By Alane Ferguson

Genre: Realistic Fiction/Mystery

The sleepy Rocky Mountain town of Silverton, Colorado hasn't seen a murder in years—according to Pat Mahoney, the county coroner. So when his teenage daughter, Cameryn, asks if she can be his assistant—as preparation for a career in forensic pathology—he figures it's a safe bet. But neither of them imagines that their first case will involve someone Cameryn knows . . . the fourth victim of a serial killer.

Attending her first autopsy is more difficult than Cameryn had ever expected, but she's determined to find her friend's murderer. Before long, Cameryn is plunged into a disturbing mystery, matching wits with everyone from the cantankerous medical examiner who doubts her abilities to the famous psychic who is predicting yet another death—*soon*.



Fire

By Kristin Cashore

Genre: Science Fiction/Fantasy

She is the last of her kind...

It is not a peaceful time in the Dells. In King City, the young King Nash is clinging to the throne, while rebel lords in the north and south build armies to unseat him. War is coming. And the mountains and forest are filled with spies and thieves. This is where Fire lives, a girl whose beauty is impossibly irresistible and who can control the minds of everyone around her.

Exquisitely romantic, this companion to the highly praised *Graceling* has an entirely new cast of characters, save for one person who plays a pivotal role in both books. You don't need to have read *Graceling* to love *Fire*. But if you haven't, you'll be dying to read it next.