



SHADY SIDE
ACADEMY

Middle School
Summer Reading
2017

FORM II (8th Grade) Summer Reading List

All-Form Book: required for all entering Form II students

Yousafzai, Malala

I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition)

Malala Yousafzai's describes her fight for education for girls under Taliban rule, the support she received from her parents to pursue an education, and how the Taliban retaliated against her by trying to kill her.

Fiction: Select a total of two from either Fiction or Non-fiction

Austen, Jane

Pride & Prejudice

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451

A book burner in a future fascist state finds out books are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed.

Bradbury, Ray

Martian Chronicles

The first Earth people to attempt the colonization of Mars try to build their new world in the image of the civilization they left behind.

Card, Orson Scott

Ender's Game

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

Christie, Agatha

And Then There Were None

Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to a lonely mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. And one by one, they die...

Dickens, Charles

A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens' 1859 historical novel set in Paris and London during the French Revolution, in which a French nobleman, Charles Darnay, renounces his position and leaves his country, then returns during the Terror to save the life of a servant, putting himself in grave danger.

Doerr, Anthony

All the Light We Cannot See

A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Sherlock Holmes is asked to investigate the tale of a hound that haunts the lonely moors around the Baskervilles' ancestral home.

Goldman, William

The Lord of the Flies

After a plane crash strands them on a tropical island while the rest of the world is ravaged by war, a group of British schoolboys attempts to form a civilized society but descends into brutal anarchy.

Goldman, Richard

The Princess Bride

Westley, a farm boy, goes off to seek his fortune shortly after declaring his love for Buttercup, the most beautiful woman in the world, but their relationship is put to the test when his ship is captured by pirates and she is summoned to become the bride of the prince.

Keyes, Daniel

Flowers for Algernon

After being mentally challenged for all of his thirty-two years, Charlie Gordon undergoes an operation designed to change his life.

LeGuin, Ursula

The Wizard of Earthsea

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

Martel, Yan

Life of Pi

Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a marvelous turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company.

Myers, Walter Dean

Monster

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Okorafor-Mbachu, Nnedi

Akata Witch

Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer.

Schlitz, Laura

The Hired Girl

Over the summer of 1911, Joan pours her heart out into her diary as she seeks a new, better life for herself--because maybe, just maybe, a hired girl cleaning and cooking for six dollars a week can become what a farm girl could only dream of--a woman with a future.

Stockett, Kathryn

The Help

Skeeter returns home to Mississippi from college in 1962 and begins to write stories about the African-American women who are found working in white households.

Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Venkatraman, Padma

A Time to Dance

In India, a girl who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.

Weir, Andy

The Martian (Classroom Edition)

Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded and completely alone on Mars, with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive, but Mark isn't ready to give up and drawing on his engineering skills and determination, he faces each obstacle with resourcefulness, but will it be enough for him to survive?

Woodson, Jacqueline

If You Come Softly

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with peoples' reactions.

Non-Fiction: Select a total of two from either Fiction or Non-fiction

Alifirenka, Caitlin

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives

In this dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends--and better people--through their long-distance exchange as pen-pals.

Asgedon, Mawi

Of Beetles and Angels

An autobiography in which Mawi Asgedom tells the story of how, at the age of three, he fled civil war in Ethiopia by walking with his mother and brother to a Sudanese refugee camp, and later moved to Chicago and earned a full scholarship to Harvard University.

Brown, Daniel James

The Boys in the Boat (young readers edition)

1936 the University of Washington's eight-oar crew, composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers who had mastered collegiate rowing, went on to the Berlin Olympics where they defeated Adolf Hitler's German team to achieve the Olympic gold medal.

Dumas, Fioozeh

Funny in Farsi

Firoozeh Dumas recounts the experiences she had after her family moved from Iran to Southern California, discussing how her family adapted to life in America.

Fleming, Candace

The Family Romanov

Details the history of Russia's last royal family, the Romanovs.

Higashida, Naoki

The Reason I Jump

Naoki Higashida, a thirteen-year-old autistic boy, demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds by answering more than fifty questions.

Hillenbrand, Laura

Unbroken (young readers edition)

A biography of Olympic runner and World War II bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who had been rambunctious in childhood before succeeding in track and eventually serving in the military, which led to a trial in which he was forced to find a way to survive in the open ocean after being shot down.

McCullough, David

The Wright Brothers

Tells the story of the Wright brothers, who grew up reading and learning, and never let anything stop them in their pursuit of a successful flying machine.

Moore, Wes

Discovering Wes Moore (young readers edition)

The author, a Rhodes scholar and combat veteran, analyzes factors that influenced him as well as another man of the same name and from the same neighborhood who was drawn into a life of drugs and crime and ended up serving life in prison, focusing on the influence of relatives, mentors, and social expectations that could have led either of them on different paths.

Sheinkin, Steve

Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War

The story of Daniel Ellsberg and his decision to steal and publish secret documents about America's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Sheinkin, Steve

The Port Chicago 50

Describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe and unfair conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights.

Sotomayor, Sonya

My Beloved World

Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor shares details about her life, discussing her childhood, education, health, career, appointment, and more.

Van Wagenen, Maya

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek

Presents a memoir of a one-year social experiment in which teen author Maya Van Wagenen follows a 1950's popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell.

Summer Reads: Select one book from this list or “Hot Off the Press”

Abdel-Fattah, Randa

Does My Head Look Big in This

Amal is a 16-year-old Melbourne teen with all the usual obsessions about boys, chocolate and Cosmo magazine. She's also a Muslim, struggling to honour the Islamic faith in a society that doesn't understand it. The story of her decision to "shawl up" is funny, surprising and touching by turns.

Adams, Douglas

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

Alcott, Kate

The Dressmaker

Tess, a young seamstress working for designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon, survives the sinking of the RMS "Titanic," and finds herself torn between loyalty to her employer and to the sailor who saved her when Lady Duff Gordon's version of their escape differs from the truth.

Dinnison, Kris

You, Me and Him

Maggie Bowers thinks she knows what to expect her junior year of high school, but when she and her out-of-the-closet best friend Nash have feelings for the same boy she wonders if winning someone's heart means losing her soul mate.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark

Ten Miles Past Normal

Because living with "modern-hippy" parents on a goat farm means fourteen-year-old Janie Gorman cannot have a normal high school life, she tries joining Jam Band, making friends with Monster, and spending time with elderly former civil rights workers.

Graudin, Ryan

Wolf by Wolf

The first book in a duology about an alternate version of 1956 where the Axis powers won WWII and hold an annual motorcycle race across their conjoined continents to commemorate their victory.

Leavitt, Martine

Calvin

Born on the day the last Calvin and Hobbes comic strip was published, seventeen-year-old Calvin, a schizophrenic, sees and has conversations with the tiger, Hobbes, and believes that if he can persuade the strip's creator, Bill Watterson, to do one more strip, he will make Calvin well.

Luurtsema, Nat

Goldfish

"I am Lou Brown: social outcast, precocious failure. 5'10" and still growing. I was on the fast track to Olympic stardom. Now, I'm training boys too cool to talk to me. In a sport I just made up. In a fish tank. My life has quickly become very weird."

Meyer, Marissa

Cinder or any in the series

Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

Nielsen, Susin

We Are All Made of Molecules

Thirteen-year-old, brilliant but socially-challenged, Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when, two years after Stewart's mother died, his father moves in with his new girlfriend-- Ashley's mother, whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house.

Preist, Cherie

I Am Princess X

Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, 16-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing all over town.

Riggs, Ransom

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Sixteen-year-old Jacob, having traveled to a remote island after a family tragedy, discovers an abandoned orphanage, and, after some investigating, he learns the children who lived there may have been dangerous and quarantined and may also still be alive.

Sachar, Louis

The Cardturner

When his wealthy uncle, a champion bridge player who has lost his vision, asks seventeen-year-old Alton to be a cardturner for him, Alton has no idea how much he will ultimately learn from his eccentric relative.

Sanderson, Brandon

Steelheart

At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners--the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny.

Sedwick, Marcus

She is Not Invisible

When her father goes missing, Laureth and her 7-year-old brother Benjamin are thrust into a mystery that takes them to New York City where surviving will take all her skill at spotting the amazing, shocking, and sometimes dangerous connections in a world full of darkness.

Sonnenblick, Jordan

Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip

After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athletic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he is becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear.

Van Draanen, Wendelin

The Running Dream

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.

Welch, Jenna Evans

Love and Gelato

After her mother dies, Lina travels to Italy where she discovers her mother's journal and sets off on an adventure to unearth her mother's secrets.

Hot Off the Press: Select one book from this list or “Summer Reads”

De la Cruz, Melissa

Alex and Eliza

Though Alex has arrived as the bearer of bad news for the Schuylers, he can't believe his luck—as an orphan, and a bastard one at that—to be in such esteemed company. And when Alex and Eliza meet that fateful night, so begins an epic love story that would forever change the course of American history. – from Amazon.com

Gratz, Alan

Code of Honor

When Iranian-American Kamran Smith learns that his big brother, Darius, has been labelled a terrorist, he sets out to piece together the codes and clues that will save his brother's life and his country from a deadly terrorist attack.

Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton & Jodi Meadows

My Lady Jane

Lady Jane Grey, sixteen, is about to be married to a total stranger--and caught up in an insidious plot to rob her cousin, King Edward, of his throne. But that's the least of Jane's problems. She's about to become Queen of England. Like that could go wrong.

Hughes, Dean

Four-Four-Two

Like many other Japanese Americans, Yuki and his family have been forced into an internment camp in the Utah desert. But Yuki isn't willing to sit back and accept this injustice—it's his country too, and he's going to prove it by enlisting in the army to fight for the Allies. – From Amazon.com

Meyers, Marissa

Heartless

In this prequel to Alice in Wonderland, Cath would rather open a bakery and marry for love than accept a proposal from the King of Hearts, especially after meeting the handsome and mysterious court jester.

Watson, Renee

This Side of Home

Twins Nikki and Maya Younger always agreed on most things, but as they head into their senior year they react differently to the gentrification of their Portland, Oregon, neighborhood and the new--white--family that moves in after their best friend and her mother are evicted.

All annotations courtesy of Follett Library Resources