



SHADY SIDE
ACADEMY

Middle School
Summer Reading
2018

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.

Literary Fiction:

One of your three selections must be from this list or from the Non-Fiction list

Alcott, Louisa May

Little Women

While their father is away at war, times are tough and the money tight for the four March sisters and their mother. Meanwhile beautiful Meg, tomboy Jo, sweet Beth and precocious Amy also have to struggle with being caught between childhood and adulthood and the difficulties of growing up.

– *from Amazon.com*

Asimov, Isaac

I, Robot

Dr. Susan Calvin, the first great practitioner of the new science of robopsychology in 2008, looks back on her career with U.S. Robotics on the occasion of her retirement fifty years later, telling stories of how the mechanical race developed.

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.

Beagle, Peter

The Last Unicorn

Recounts the quest of the last unicorn, who leaves the protection of the enchanted forest to search for her own kind, and who is joined by Schmedrick the Magician and Molly Grue in her search.

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.

Bronte, Charlotte

Jane Eyre

When a penniless governess falls in love with the brooding master of Thornfield, she is unaware of the tragic events that will follow.

Christie, Agatha

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd

Inspector Hercule Poirot, having retired to the small English village of King's Abbot, is drawn into the investigation of the murders of the widow Mrs. Ferrars and her suitor, local squire Roger Ackroyd.

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 Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes

Through the foggy streets of Victorian London to the deepest countryside, Sherlock Holmes uses his unique powers of deduction in eight thrilling investigations, including the mysteries of 'The Speckled Band' and 'The Reigate Puzzle'.

– from Amazon.com

Farmer, Nancy

The House of the Scorpion

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

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.

Nolan, Han

A Summer of Kings

After being accused of killing a white man in Alabama and sent north by his mother to escape a lynch mob, King-Roy finds his way to a home where he meets Esther, a young white girl looking for excitement and attention, where an unexpected friendship develops that transforms both of their lives while coming to terms with what they deem just and right.

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.

Pullman, Philip

The Golden Compass

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Rinaldi, Ann

Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons

A fictionalized biography of the eighteenth-century African woman who, as a child, was brought to New England to be a slave, and after publishing her first poem when a teenager, gained renown throughout the colonies as an important African-American poet.

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.

Sepetys, Ruta

Salt to the Sea

Racing to freedom with thousands of other refugees as Russian forces close in on their homes in East Prussia, Joana, Emilia, and Florian meet aboard the doomed Wilhelm Gustloff and are forced to trust each other in order to survive

Smith, Dodie

I Capture the Castle

A 1949 novel recounting the story of Cassandra Mortmain, a young woman living on the edge of poverty in a crumbling castle with her somewhat eccentric family, whose prospects begin to improve when new neighbors arrive from America.

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.

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?

Zusak, Markus

The Book Thief

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

Non-Fiction:

One of your three books must be from this list of from the Literary Fiction list

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.

Davis, Kenneth

In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents and Five Black Lives

An examination of American slavery through the true stories of five enslaved people who were considered the property of some of our best-known presidents

--Provided by publisher

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.

Frank, Anne

The Diary of a Young Girl

Among the most powerful accounts of the Nazi occupation, "The Diary of Anne Frank" chronicles the life of Anne Frank, a thirteen-year old girl fleeing her home in Amsterdam to go into hiding. Anne reveals the relationships between eight people living under miserable conditions: facing hunger, threat of discovery and the worst horrors the modern world had seen.

– from Amazon.com

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.

Noyes, Deborah

Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original “Girl” Reporter, Nellie Bly

A biography of Nellie Bly, the pioneering journalist whose showy but substantive stunts skyrocketed her to fame.

--Provided by publisher

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.

Swanson, James

Chasing King’s Killer

James Earl Ray and Martin Luther King, Jr. had two very different life journeys -- but their paths fatally collide when Ray assassinates the world-renown civil rights leader. This book provides an inside look into both of their lives, the history of the time, and a blow-by-blow examination of the assassination and its aftermath.

--Provided by publisher

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.

General Fiction

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.

Belleza, Rhoda

Empress of a Thousand Skies

"When their paths cross after a brutal attack Aly is falsely accused of making on Rhee, they are forced to work together to save their own lives and the universe" -- *from OCLC.*

Bradbury, Jennifer

A Moment Comes

Before India was divided, three teens, each from wildly different backgrounds, cross paths. And then, in one moment, their futures become irrevocably intertwined.

Carson, Rae

Walk on Earth a Stranger

Lee Westfall, a young woman with the magical ability to sense the presence of gold, must flee her home to avoid people who would abuse her powers, so when her best friend Jefferson heads out across Gold Rush-era America to stake his claim, she disguises herself as a boy and sets out on her own dangerous journey.

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.

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.

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*

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.

Quick, Matthew

Boy 21

Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences.

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.

Stone, Tamara Ireland

Every Last Word

"Consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off, a girl coping with Purely-Obsessional OCD learns to accept herself and take control of her life through her experiences in poetry club"
--Provided by publisher.

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.

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.

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

Adeyemi, Tomi

Children of Blood and Bone

Seventeen-year-old Zélie, her older brother Tzain, and rogue princess Amari fight to restore magic to the land and activate a new generation of magi, but they are ruthlessly pursued by the crown prince, who believes the return of magic will mean the end of the monarchy.

--From Amazon.com

Bacigalupi, Paolo

Tool of War

Tool--a half-man/half-beast designed for combat--proves himself capable of so much more than his creators had ever dreamed. He has gone rogue from his pack of bioengineered "augments" and emerged a victorious leader of a pack of human soldier boys. But he is hunted relentlessly by someone determined to destroy him, who knows an alarming secret.

--From Amazon.com

Buxbaum, Julie

What to Say Next

When an unlikely friendship is sparked between relatively popular Kit Lowell and socially isolated David Drucker, everyone is surprised, most of all Kit and David. Kit appreciates David's blunt honesty—in fact, she finds it bizarrely refreshing. David welcomes Kit's attention and her inquisitive nature. When she asks for his help figuring out the how and why of her dad's tragic car accident, David is all in.

—from Amazon.com

Meyer, Marissa

Renegades

"The Renegades are human, but with extraordinary abilities. They emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned. As champions of justice, they remain a symbol of hope and courage to everyone... except the villains they once overthrew. Nova has a reason to hate the Renegades, and is on a mission for vengeance. Adrian is a Renegade boy who believes in justice-- and in Nova. But Nova's allegiance is to a villain who has the power to end them both."

--Provided by the publisher

Nielsen, Jennifer

The Traitor's Game

Kestra Dallisor has spent three years in exile in the Lava Fields, but that won't stop her from being drawn back into her father's palace politics. He's second-in-command to the cruel king, Lord Endrick, which makes Kestra a valuable bargaining chip. A group of rebels knows this -- and they snatch Kestra from her carriage as she reluctantly travels home.

--From Amazon.com

Perkins, Mitali

You Bring the Distant Near

From 1965 through the present, an Indian American family adjusts to life in New York City, alternately fending off and welcoming challenges to their own traditions.

Zappia Francesca

Eliza and Her Monsters

Eighteen-year-old Eliza Mirk is the anonymous creator of *Monstrous Sea*, a wildly popular webcomic, but when a new boy at school tempts her to live a life offline, everything she's worked for begins to crumble.

--From Amazon.com

All annotations courtesy of Follett Library Resources or as otherwise noted