

Friends Academy
2019 Middle School Summer Reading List
for students entering
8th Grade

Challenge One: Community Read

Students entering eighth grade are required to read the following:

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. ISBN # 978-1407184326 Historical Fiction

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .

ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

Challenge Two

In addition to Challenge One, students entering eighth grade are required to read any two of the following:

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. ISBN-13: 978-1416905868 Historical Fiction

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 with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

From acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson comes this compelling, impeccably researched novel that shows the lengths we can go to cast off our chains, both physical and spiritual.

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*. ISBN-13: 978-0807083697 Supernatural/Historical Fiction

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband

when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

Carbone, Elisa. *The Pack*.

ISBN-13: 978-0670036196

Historic Fiction

Becky is convinced that Akhil Vyas is the weirdest person on earth when he shows up in her English class. He refuses to sit in chairs, stares at her with spooky eyes, and has scar-covered skin. But soon Becky's revulsion turns to fascination. The National Institutes of Health is studying Akhil, but he won't say why—until something happens that makes him swear Becky and her friend Omar to secrecy. Suddenly Becky isn't sure what's more shocking—Akhil's secret, or the chilling reason why he must reveal it. Elisa Carbone weaves a tale of intrigue that will enthrall any reader.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*.

ASIN: B01FIWKR8O

Realistic Fiction

Luther T. Farrell tries to break out of his life in Flint, MI in order to go to Harvard. Luther tries to tackle all the problems of other fifteen-year-olds, as well as put up with his tough mother, the Sarge.

Crutcher, Chris. *Ironman*.

ASIN: B01FIXJ5LI

Sports

Bo has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. The rage he feels gives him the energy as a triathlete to press his body to the limit, but it also translates into angry outbursts toward his teachers.

Now dangerously close to expulsion from school, Bo has been assigned to Anger Management sessions with the school "truants." With an eclectic mix of hard-edged students, Bo may finally have to deal with his long-brewing hatred for his father -- before it eats away at him completely.

Feinstein, John. Sports mysteries series.

In John Feinstein's series, sports and mystery are intertwined. Follow reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson as they go behind the scenes and cover stories about baseball, football, basketball, tennis, and swimming.

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery **ISBN-13:** 978-0553494600

Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open **ISBN-13:** 978-0440421252

Cover Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl **ISBN-13:** 978-0440422051

Change Up: Mystery at the World Series **ISBN-13:** 978-0375847592

The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game **ISBN-13:** 978-0375858161

Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics **ISBN-13:** 978-0375871689

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*. **ISBN-13:** 978-1416914051 Classic

An African-American family moves into a house that once hid runaway slaves and soon comes to believe that their new home is possessed by the spirit of a murdered abolitionist, Dies Drear.

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0670532575 Classic

This classic novel deals with the worlds of the greasers and socs (socialites) in 1960s America. Ponyboy is conflicted about right and wrong when his fellow greaser Johnny kills a soc.

Johnson, Angela. *First Part Last*. **ISBN-13:** 978-1442403437 Realistic Fiction

Coretta Scott King Award Winner

Bobby is a 16-year-old father struggling to raise a child. In flashbacks, we see how Bobby gets to where he is today and how he deals with the stress and joy of being a father.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0689856402 Realistic Fiction

2005 Newbery Medal winner.

A Japanese family moves from Iowa to Georgia and must learn how to deal with the illness of a loved one as well as the curious stares from the community.

Marchetta, Melina. *Jellicoe Road*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0061431852 *Mystery*

Winner of the 2009 Printz Award.

Abandoned by her mother on Jellicoe Road when she was eleven, Taylor Markham, now seventeen is finally being confronted with her past. But as the reluctant leader of her boarding school dorm, there isn't a lot of time for introspection. And while Hannah, the closest adult Taylor has to family, has disappeared, Jonah Griggs, the boy who might be the key to unlocking the secrets for Taylor's past, is back in town, moody stares and all.

Murphy, Jim. *The Great Fire*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0439203074 Non-Fiction

1996 Newbery Honor Book.

This nonfiction book tells the story behind Chicago's Great Fire in 1871. It is told with a strong narrative and period illustrations.

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0060531829 Fantasy

2005 Printz Honor Book. In an alternate world, Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard a huge airship. Reminiscent of the adventure stories of Verne and Stevenson, Matt must investigate an old man's claims of seeing mysterious flying creatures.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*. **ISBN-10:** 9780451526342 Classic

In George Orwell's classic book, a farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Transall Saga*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0375873232 Science Fiction

Thirteen-year-old Mark crosses into another world on a camping trip. He must learn how to survive in this new alien world.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Notes from the Midnight Driver*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0439757812 Realistic Fiction

Alex Gregory has made some bad decisions. After a drunk driving incident, he is sentenced to spend time in a retirement home with an old man with a mystery.

White, Robb. *Deathwatch*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0440917403 Mystery

An exciting novel of suspense, based on a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon who believes that anything can be had for a price.

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0142401095 Historical Fiction

1989 National Jewish Book Award Winner.

Hannah is transported back to 1942 Poland during her modern-day Passover Seder. As she tries to figure out what has happened, Nazi soldiers begin to take everyone away. Hannah is the only one that knows what horrors are in store.

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief*. **ISBN-13:** 978-0375842207 Historical Fiction

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.