

# ESMS 2020 INCOMING 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING:

**All incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to read 2 books before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school. During the last 2 weeks of September, students will be completing assignments based on their choice of book. The summer readings are to encourage reading and help students get a jump on the fall assignments. ESMS staff recommend 1 Fiction and 1 Nonfiction book. They have already been paired appropriately below.**

All students are strongly encouraged to write a brief summary for each chapter (2 - 3 sentences each). This will help the students to remember what they read.

NONFICTION		FICTION
<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Oppression, aggression, equality, courage, hope, fear, freedom vs. confinement, family</p>		<p><b>Possible Subjects of Themes:</b> Hope, fear, courage, oppression, aggression, equality, freedom vs. confinement, family</p>
<p><b><i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i></b> by Anne Frank Lexile Level: 1020</p> <p>Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic—a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary, Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period. By turns thoughtful, moving, and amusing, her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.</p>	<p><b><i>Paired with...</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Three Links of a Chain</i></b> by Dennis Maley</p> <p>The flyer reads, "One dark mulatto runaway, aged fourteen, well dressed and bright..." Blanche thinks he has it good. He has risen to a position helping run a printing press. He's well-fed, never physically mistreated, and he has taught himself to read, though he keeps the illicit skill a secret. Most importantly, he has been promised a chance at emancipation. Then, his world is overturned, his master lies dead, and his widow has no intention of following through with her husband's promise to free him.</p> <p>Blanche would never have considered running away from his old life, but faced with the prospect of being sold as a laborer or worse, he forges his free papers and flees north, a fugitive, to create his own future. Only a few steps ahead of the slave catchers, he travels hundreds of miles across the violent backdrop of "bleeding Kansas" in the 1850s, a land torn apart by two very different visions of humanity. This work of fiction weaves actual historical characters and institutions into the gripping story of a young man born into slavery but resolute in his quest for freedom.</p>

<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Obsession, innovation, creative problem solving, technology, achievement, perseverance, choices</p>		<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Fate, obsession, choices, identity, conformity, choices</p>
<p><b>Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different</b> by Karen Blumenthal Lexile Level: 1110</p> <p>Critically acclaimed author Karen Blumenthal takes us to the core of this complicated and legendary man while simultaneously exploring the evolution of computers. Framed by Jobs' inspirational Stanford commencement speech and illustrated throughout with black and white photos, this is the story of the man who changed our world.</p>	<p><b>Paired with...</b></p>	<p><b>Stargirl</b> by Jerry Spinneli Lexile Level: 590</p> <p>Stargirl. From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, the hallways hum with the murmur of "Stargirl, Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with just one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with just one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. At first. Then they turn on her. Stargirl is suddenly shunned for everything that makes her different, and Leo, panicked and desperate with love, urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her: normal. In this celebration of nonconformity, Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the perils of popularity and the thrill and inspiration of first love.</p>
<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Survival, compassion, courage, choices, perseverance, wisdom</p>		<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Courage, wisdom, freedom, strength, perseverance, choices, survival</p>
<p><b>A Young People's History of the United States</b> by Howard Zinn Lexile Level: 1020</p> <p>This is the young adult edition of Howard Zinn's classic telling of American history. A Young People's History of the United States brings to US history the viewpoints of workers, slaves, immigrants, women, Native Americans, and others whose stories, and their impact, are rarely included in books for young people. Beginning with a look at Christopher Columbus' arrival through the eyes of the Arawak Indians; then leading the reader through the struggles for workers' rights, women's rights, and civil rights during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; and ending with the current protests against continued American imperialism, Zinn</p>	<p><b>Paired with...</b></p>	<p><b>The Final Four</b> by Paul Volponi Lexile Level: 870</p> <p>March Madness is in full swing, and there are only four teams left in the NCAA basketball championship. The heavily favored Michigan Spartans and the underdog Troy Trojans meet in the first game in the semifinals, and it's there that the fates of Malcolm, Roko, Crispin, and M.J. intertwine. As the last moments tick down on the game clock, you'll learn how each player went from being a kid who loves to shoot hoops to a powerful force in one of the most important games of the year. Which team will leave the Superdome victorious? In the end it will come down to who has the most skill, the most drive, and the most heart.</p>

<p>presents a radical new way of understanding America's history. In so doing, he reminds readers that America's true greatness is shaped by our dissident voices, not our military generals.</p>		
<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Oppression, education, aggression, equality, courage, choices, strength</p>		<p><b>Possible Subjects or Themes:</b> Oppression, education, censorship, aggression, courage, choices, strength</p>
<p><b><i>I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by The Taliban</i></b> by Malala Yousafzai Lexile Level: 1000</p> <p>This is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.</p>	<p><b><i>Paired with...</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Fahrenheit 451</i></b> by Ray Bradbury Lexile Level: 890</p> <p>Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses they hide in.</p> <p>Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But then he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television.</p> <p>When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known. He starts hiding books in his home, and when his pilfering is discovered, the fireman has to run for his life.</p>