

DEMAREST MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST FOR
STUDENTS ENTERING THE 8TH GRADE
SEPTEMBER 2026

We are excited to begin your eighth-grade journey with you this fall.
Please choose **at least one of the books on this list that you have not read before.**

You will need a copy of the book to include important quotes to prepare for a literary analysis assessment in September.

● **Sports**

- All-American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- Backfield Boys by John Feinstein
- The Blind Side by Michael Lewis
- Friday Night Lights by Buzz Bissinger
- The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen
- After The Shot Drops by Randy Ribay
- One Goal by Amy Bass
- Slugfest by Gordon Korman

● **Historical Fiction**

- Salt to the Sea by Ruth Septys
- I Must Betray You by Ruth Septys
- War Games by Alan Gratz
- The Bletchley Riddle by Ruth Septys and Steve Sheinkin
- When The World Was Ours by Liz Kessler
- Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
- We Are Not Free by Tracee Chee
- A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahreheh Mafi

● **Science Fiction/Fantasy**

- Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir
- House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
- The Cruel Prince by Holly Black (series)
- Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans (series)
- Warcross by Marie Lu
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- The Maze Runner by James Dashner
- Matched by Allie Condie (series)
- The Selection by Kiera Cass (series)

● **Mystery**

- The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (series)
- The Naturals by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (series)
- We Were Liars by E. Lockhart (series)
- The Reappearance of Rachel Price by Holly Jackson
- And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

- **Realistic Fiction**

- Lord of the Flies by William Golding
- Every Day (series) by David Levithan
- Orbiting Jupiter by Gary Schmidt
- Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
- All The Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
- We Are Not From Here by Jenny Torres-Sánchez
- Starfish by Akemi Dawn Bowman
- Finding Audrey by Sophie Kinsella

- **Nonfiction/Biography/Autobiography/Memoir**

- The Impossible Escape by Steve Sheinkin
- The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose
- Unbroken (Young Adult) by Laura Hillenbrand
- Everything Sad is Untrue by Daniel Naye
- Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom
- The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater
- Trevor Noah, Born a Crime (Young Readers' Edition) by Trevor Noah
- Just Mercy (Young Adults) by Bryan Stevenson

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