

NMS Summer Reading 2017 8th Grade

Students entering grade 8 should read *Trouble* by Gary D. Schmidt and one title from this list. Students will complete a writing assignment in class on *Trouble*. Students will complete a project on their choice book.

SPORTS

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander -- Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

The Final Four by Paul Volponi -- Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

Full Impact by Suzanne Weyn -- It's a full-contact sport. Norval and Arnie are two of the stars on the Southside High football team. They're best friends off the field, too, and they're both hoping to play college ball some day. But Arnie has been acting weird lately. And Norval isn't the only one who has noticed. When Coach Green asks Norval to watch Arnie for signs of a concussion, it sounds like spying. But is betraying Arnie the best way for Norval to help his friend?

Gutless by Carl Deuker -- With both good speed and good hands, wide receiver Brock should be a natural for the varsity team, but he shies from physical contact. Now a target for bullying, Brock struggles to overcome his fears and discover that, in his own way, he is brave enough.

Hard Ball by Will Weaver -- A fourteen-year-old Minnesota farm boy has to figure out how to get along with the arch-rival in his love life and on the baseball diamond, and both boys must learn how to deal with the unfair expectations of their fathers.

Kick by Walter Dean Myers -- Told in their separate voices, thirteen-year-old soccer star Kevin and police sergeant Brown, who knew his father, try to keep Kevin out of juvenile hall after he is arrested on very serious charges.

Muckers by Sandra Neil Wallace -- "Felix O'Sullivan, standing in the shadow of his dead brother, an angry, distant father, and racial tension, must lead the last-ever Muckers high school football team to the state championship before a mine closing shuts down his entire town."

Out of Nowhere by Maria Padian -- Performing community service for pulling a stupid prank against a rival high school, soccer star Tom tutors a Somali refugee with soccer dreams of his own.

Tales From The Dugout : The Greatest True Baseball Stories Ever Told by Mike Shannon -- Batter up! Here comes the most memorable collection of anecdotes about the national pastime ever assembled. Tales from the Dugout brings together never-before-told stories from baseball personalities Roger Maris, Ken Griffey Jr., Pete Rose, Phil Rizzuto, Gaylord Perry, and many more in this illustrated one-of-a-kind compendium. Light-hearted, often touching, and always entertaining, this engaging collection takes fans into the dugout, clubhouse, and press box with some of the greatest players and storytellers in history.

HISTORICAL FICTION

After the War by Matas, Carol -- After being released from Buchenwald at the end of World War II, a young girl risks her life to lead a group of refugees across Europe to Palestine.

Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez -- In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak -- A young girl trying to make sense of the trials of Nazi Germany discovers the beauty of literature after stealing books and telling stories to comfort others, including a Jewish man hiding in the basement.

The Borrowed House by Hilda Van Stockum During World War II a young German girl, member of the Hitler Youth, joins her parents in occupied Amsterdam and comes to realize that the war is about more than national pride and destiny; for some it means starvation, separation from loved ones, and gas chambers.

A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials by Ann Rinaldi -- Susanna desperately wants to join the circle of girls who meet every week at the parsonage. What she doesn't realize is that the girls are about to set off a torrent of false accusations leading to the imprisonment and execution of countless innocent people. Susanna faces a painful choice. Should she keep quiet and let the witch-hunt panic continue, or should she "break charity" with the group--and risk having her own family members named as witches? **Amazon.com**

Daniel Half Human: And the Good Nazi by David Chotjewitz and Doris Orgel -- Unaware that his mother is half Jewish, young Daniel Kraushaar dreams of joining the Hitler Youth in 1930s Germany. Fiction, Grades 7-9.

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen -- In a strange turn of events, Hannah learns to understand the traditions of her Jewish heritage when time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Good Night, Maman by Norma Fox Mazer -- After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

The Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev -- Alone in a ruined house during World War II, a young Jewish boy must learn to survive under constantly life-threatening conditions.

Marika by Andrea Cheng -- Unaware of her Jewish heritage, Hungarian born Marika is raised as a Christian but learns how dangerous it is to be of Jewish heritage and living in Hungary during World War II.

Waiting for Anya by Michael Morpurgo -- A young boy gains the support of a French town and a German soldier to help Jewish children escape during World War II.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley -- English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. The plot contains violence, including descriptions of child abuse.

NONFICTION

Black & White: The Confrontation Between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor by Larry Dane Brimner -- In the nineteen fifties and early sixties, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as Bombingham. At the center of this violent time in the fight for civil rights, and standing at opposite ends, were Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor. From his pulpit, Shuttlesworth agitated for racial equality, while Commissioner Connor fought for the status quo. Relying on court documents, police and FBI reports, newspapers, interviews, and photographs, author Larry Dane Brimner first covers each man's life and then brings them together to show how their confrontation brought about significant change to the southern city. The author worked closely with Birmingham's Civil Rights Institute as well as with Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and his wife to bring together this Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, ALA Notable Children's book, and Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of the Year.

The Boys in the Boat : The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics (Young Readers Adaptation) by Daniel James Brown -- The astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler. At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his generation--the generation that would prove in the coming years that the Nazis could not prevail over American determination and optimism.

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club by Phillip Hoose -- At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. Interweaving his own narrative with the recollections of Knud himself, here is Phillip Hoose's inspiring story of these young war heroes.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson -- This fast-paced thriller tells the story of the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth and gives a day-by-day account of the wild chase to find this killer and his accomplices. Based on James Swanson's bestselling adult book *Manhunt: The Twelve-day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*, this young adult version is an accessible look at the assassination of a president, and shows readers how Lincoln's death impacted those closest to him. [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Home Front Girl by Joan Wehlen Morrison -- This is the diary of a smart, astute, and funny teenager, making a record of what an everyday American girl thought and felt during the Depression and the lead-up to World War II. This is an important primary source on the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Left for Dead by Pete Nelson -- No, not the zombie shooter game! This is the true account of the USS Indianapolis sinking and the story of the survivors who lasted 5 days in shark infested waters, coated in the ship's oil, in fire, and

without lifeboats. Then it's the story of a middle school boy who brought the truth to light about the Navy's cover-up for its failure to rescue them. (NF)

Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos -- Today, people think of sugar as just an additive for drinks or cereal, but it once fueled both the slave trade and the Industrial Revolution. The text contains descriptions of violence.

Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust by Michael Hingson -- Allows you entry stairwell B in the World Trade Center to experience survival through the eyes of a blind man and his beloved guide dog. Live each moment from the second a Boeing 767 hits the north tower, to the harrowing stairwell escape, to dodging death a second time as both towers fold into the earth. It's the 9/11 story that will forever change your spirit and your perspective, illustrating how the rare trust between a man and his guide dog can inspire an unshakable faith in each one of us. [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The Upstairs Room by Johanna Reiss -- When the German army occupied Holland, Annie de Leeuw was eight years old. Because she was Jewish, the occupation put her in grave danger-she knew that to stay alive she would have to hide. Fortunately, a Gentile family, the Oostervelds, offered to help. For two years they hid Annie and her sister, Sini, in the cramped upstairs room of their farmhouse. Most people thought the war wouldn't last long. But for Annie and Sini -- separated from their family and confined to one tiny room -- the war seemed to go on forever.

Women of the Frontier: 16 Tales of Trailblazing Homesteaders, Entrepreneurs, and Rabble-Rousers by Brandon Marie Miller -- Drawing on journal entries, letters, and song lyrics to evoke the courage and spirit of female pioneers, a collection of portraits traces the lives of such individuals as Amelia Stewart Knight, Miriam Colt, and Clara Brown.

REALISTIC FICTION

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely -- When 16-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing and Quinn witness his brutal beating at the hands of the police, the boys' school, town, and country are affected. The plot contains profanity and violence.

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan (National Book Award 2000) -- When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart -- Told in alternating chapters, 12-year-old, terminally ill Mark conceives a plan to climb Mt. Rainier and runs away from home with his dog while his best friend Jessie wonders if she should betray Mark's trust. The plot contains mild violence.

I'll Be There by Holly Goldberg Sloan -- Sam has always lived a secretive life. His abusive and criminal father has changed addresses so often; Sam never registers for school or makes friends. He stays with his dad for the sake of his sickly younger brother. Everything changes the moment he locks eyes with Emily while she nervously sings, "I'll Be There" at a public performance, and Sam risks life and limb to maintain the first positive relationship of his life. (R)

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine -- In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white--the world is full of colors--messy and beautiful.

Okay For Now by Gary D. Schmidt -- As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swietek has all the stats stacked against him until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer--a fiery young lady. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage. (E-book available to check out through NMS Library Catalog)

Saving Mr. Terupt (Mr. Terupt #3) by Rob Buyea -- The kids from Mr. Terupt's fifth- and sixth-grade classes are entering their first year of junior high school. There's a lot to be excited about: Peter and Jeffrey face tough competition on their wrestling team, Alexia has a disastrous first day of school, Anna is desperate for Charlie to propose to her mother, Danielle isn't feeling so well, trouble with a bully makes Luke dread going to school for the first time ever. And Jessica is waiting anxiously for an acceptance to a theater retreat in New York City. Everyone is missing their favorite teacher, Mr. Terupt.

Shooting Kabul by N.H. Senzai -- Based on a true story. Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.

MYSTERY/ADVENTURE

Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrahams -- Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls.

I Am the Cheese by Robert Cormier -- A young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.

Shadow on the Mountain by Margi Preus -- In Nazi-occupied Norway, fourteen-year-old Espen joins the resistance movement, graduating from deliverer of illegal newspapers to courier and spy.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke (Mass. Book Award Winner 2005; Batchelder Award 2003) -- Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt only the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they find protection from a gang of Venetian street children and their leader, the Thief Lord. (E-book available to check out through NMS Library Catalog)

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins (Underland Chronicles #1) -- When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where spiders, rats, cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. This world is on the brink of war, and Gregor's arrival is no accident.

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer -- In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

A Ring of Endless Light by Madeleine L'Engle -- During the summer her grandfather is dying of leukemia and death seems all around, 15-year-old Vicky finds comfort with the pod of dolphins with whom she has been doing research.

Son by Lois Lowry -- Unlike the other Birthmothers in her utopian community, teenaged Claire forms an attachment to her baby, feeling a great loss when he is taken to the Nurturing Center to be adopted by a family unit. (E-book available to check out through NMS Library Catalog)

Z For Zachariah by Robert C. O'Brien -- Seemingly the only person left alive after a nuclear war, sixteen-year-old Ann Burden is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape.