



BRENTWOOD ACADEMY

Summer Reading List 2024: 8th Grade English (Standard and Honors)

"Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man."
-Francis Bacon

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- To improve reading fluency
- To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches the educational experience
- To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy
- To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing beginning the first day of class
- To encourage a lifelong love of reading

Required Text (for both Honors and Standard)

- *The Hiding Place* Corrie Ten Boom
This riveting story tells how a middle-aged Dutch watchmaker became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's death camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century.

Choice Texts (Honors - select two, Standard - select one)

- *Ender's Game* Orson Scott Card
Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, a six-year-old boy genius, is selected by the world governments to train, along with other exceptional children, to fight against the greatest threat the Earth has ever known.

- *The Giver* Lois Lowry
A young boy named Jonas grows up in a seemingly perfect world, one free of hunger, pain, and sadness. But at what cost? Follow Jonas as he uncovers the truth behind the seeming utopia that he lives in.

- *Little Women* Louisa May Alcott
Meg – the sweet tempered one. Jo - the smart one. Beth – the shy one. Amy – the sassy one. Together they are the March sisters. Their father is away at war and times are difficult, but the bond between the sisters is strong. Through sisterly squabbles, happy times and sad, their four lives follow different paths, and discover that growing up is sometimes very hard to do...

- *Between Shades of Gray* Ruta Sepetys
Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life – until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing.

Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

• *And Then There Were None* Agatha Christie
10 strangers are invited to a remote island by a secretive millionaire in this classic murder mystery. Each stranger becomes a victim, one by one, and no one is above suspicion.

• *The Chosen* Chaim Potok
A moving story set in Brooklyn, New York, in the 1940s about an unlikely friendship between two Jewish boys that begins with a simple baseball game.

• *The Lord of the Rings (any book in trilogy)* J.R.R. Tolkien
The Lord of the Rings trilogy tells of the great quest of Frodo Baggins (nephew of Bilbo) and the rest of the fellowship of the Ring. Students can read any book in the trilogy if they have previously read one in the series; however, if someone has read only *The Hobbit*, he/she should read *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

General Instructions/Evaluations

1. *The Hiding Place* is the starting point for eighth grade literature-it is the required reading for both Standard and Honors sections.
2. Students will be grouped by the choice book(s) that they have read. The specific evaluation method(s) will be discussed the first day of class.
3. Students should have all summer reading books the first day of class.
4. Although not required for summer reading, annotation (highlighting, margin notes, summaries)
5. You are permitted to read along with an audiobook if that is

***Please remember the BA English Department policy:
Do not consult internet novel guides, any other electronic or printed summaries, or
movies; read and mark the texts themselves.***