

8th Grade Summer Reading

Mrs. McMonagle

The unread story is not a story; it is little black marks on wood pulp.
The reader, reading it, makes it live: a live thing, a story.

—Ursula K. Le Guin

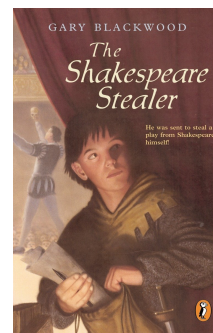
Reading should be an exciting and essential part of your summer!

You will be in charge of completing three novels by the time you return to school.

These novels should challenge you to uncover the themes and relatable context represented in each. You will have a test on the a. overall themes, b. major plot points, and c. main characters in these readings during the second week of school. I encourage you to take notes while you read. See you in September!

1. The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood

Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play "Hamlet"—or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform. As full of twists and turns as a London alleyway, this entertaining novel is rich in period details, colorful characters, villainy, and drama.



2. Is it Night or Day by Fern Schumer Chapman

It's 1938, and twelve-year-old Edith is about to move from the tiny German village she's lived in all her life to a place that seems as foreign as the moon: Chicago, Illinois. And she will be doing it alone. This dramatic and chilling novel about one girl's escape from Hitler's Germany was inspired by the experiences of the author's mother, one of twelve hundred children rescued by Americans as part of the One Thousand Children project.



3. Nothing but the Truth by Avi

In this thought-provoking examination of freedom, patriotism, and respect, ninth grader Philip Malloy is kept from joining the track team by his failing grades in English class. Convinced that the teacher just doesn't like him, Philip concocts a plan to get transferred out of her class. Breaking the school's policy of silence during the national anthem, he hums along, and ends up in a crisis at the center of the nation's attention.

