

**HILLSIDE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST 2016
Grade 8**

- 1) Each student is responsible for reading one of the Required Books for his grade. Please find the Required Book choices in the box for the corresponding grade.
- 2) Each student is responsible for reading two additional books. There are suggested books listed here, but students do not need to read specifically those books. The additional books are simply suggestions for that grade's reading level.

STUDENTS ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

REQUIRED: You must read ONE of the following:

Across Five Aprils Irene Hunt

Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in southern during the difficult years of the Civil War.

Beardance Will Hobbs

As this action-packed sequel to *Bearstone* opens, Cloyd Atcitty and his rancher friend Walter Landis are heading back into the mountains, this time chasing the old man's dream of finding a lost Spanish gold mine. But when Cloyd hears that a mother grizzly and her cubs have been sighted nearby, he immediately hopes it might be the mate of the bear he had tried to save from a hunter the previous summer.

When the mother bear dies in a tragic accident, Cloyd realizes that if her cubs don't survive, grizzlies will disappear from Colorado forever. He refuses to leave the cubs, determined to stay with them until they can den. But with winter deepening in the mountains, can Cloyd himself survive?

War Horse Michael Morpurgo

World War I has started and the military needs horses to move equipment, charge the enemy, and carry the wounded soldiers off the battlefield. Joey, a farm horse, is sold to the army. Joey misses the farmer's son, Albert, and spends the war years wondering if the war will ever end and if he will ever see Albert again.

Code Talker Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Suggestions for Additional Book Choices:

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel Michael Scott

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

The Art of Keeping Cool Janet Taylor Lisle (*Scott O'Dell Award*)

In 1942, Robert and his cousin Elliot uncover long-hidden family secrets while staying in their grandparents' Rhode Island town, where they also become involved with a German artist who is suspected of being a spy.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer James L. Swanson

Recounts the escape of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, and follows the twelve-day search for him.

Dodger Terry Pratchett

Dodger is a canniest cove in all of London, scheming with Dickens, glad-handing Disraeli, and even getting the upper hand over Sweeny Todd in his quest to protect an anonymous girl.

Endangered Eliot Schrefer

From National Book Award Finalist Eliot Schrefer comes the compelling tale of a girl who must save a group of bonobos – and herself – from a violent coup.

Fallen Angels Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Fever 1793 Laurie Halse Anderson

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

The Hobbit or There and Back Again J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Million Dollar Throw Mike Lupica

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind, so when he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

Over Sea, Under Stone Susan Cooper (*Award winning series*)

Three children on a holiday in Cornwall find an ancient manuscript, which entraps them in

Samurai Shortstop Alan Gratz

While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, Sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance Jennifer Armstrong

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Zen and the Art of Faking It Jordan Sonnenblick

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out. His knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer—and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.