

KATY ISD - 2016 SUMMER READING LIST

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER READING

ENTERING 6TH GRADE - FICTION

Author	Title	Summary
Colfer, Chris	<i>The Land of Stories: Wishing Spell</i> , 2013	Fraternal twins, Connor and Alex, discover a magical book that takes them into the world of their favorite fairy tales, but how are they going to get back to their own world and survive some of the most hated fairy tale villains? Fans of <i>The Grimm Legacy</i> and <i>A Tale Dark and Grimm</i> would enjoy this book.
Engle, Margarita	<i>Mountain Dog</i> , 2013	When his mother is sent to jail, Tony must go live with a great uncle he has never met. While living in the Sierra Nevada mountains, he learns about search and rescue with his uncle's dog.
Gale, Eric Kahn	<i>The Bully Book</i> , 2013	Eric Haskins has just begun 6th grade has been named the "grunt" of the school. He is the target of a school-wide bullying scheme. Eric sets out to find out why he has been targeted to be bullied and why the Bully Book even exists.
Hiaason, Carl	<i>Chomp</i> , 2012	Wahoo and his family own a wildlife refuge in the Florida Everglades. They are hired to help out with a reality show "Expedition Survival". The star of the show turns out to be a big fake and then runs off in the Everglades. Wahoo, his dad, and the film crew must search the dangerous, bug filled Everglades to find him before he gets into more trouble.
Levy, Joanne	<i>Small Medium at Large</i> , 2012	After she is struck by lightning, Lilah discovers she can speak with the dead, including her late grandmother who devises a plan for Lilah to find a new wife for her father.

Lupica, Mike	<i>QB 1</i> , 2013	Jake Cullen comes from a family of great football players. Dad is a retired NFL quarterback and older brother Wyatt is playing football at University of Texas. Jake has some big shoes to fill when trying to earn the starting quarterback spot on his high school football team as a freshman. Does Jake have what it takes to live up to his family's legacy?
Mills, Claudia	<i>Zero Tolerance</i> , 2013	Sarah, a seventh grade honor student who has never been in trouble, accidentally brings a paring knife to school in her lunch. When she turns it in, she is expelled due to the school's zero tolerance policy.
Tubb, Kristen O'Donnell	<i>The 13th Sign</i> , 2013	Jalen accidentally releases the twelve signs of the zodiac from a mysterious book. Now she and two friends must battle the signs in the streets of New Orleans before it is too late.
Preus, Margi	<i>Shadow on the Mountain</i> , 2012	Based on a true story, this novel tells how Espen, a 14-year old Norwegian boy, becomes a spy and joins the resistance movement against the Nazis.
Shulman, Polly	<i>The Wells Bequest</i> , 2013	Leo discovers a magical library, the New York Circulating Material Repository that lends out objects instead of books. One collection is the Wells Bequest, a secret collection of powerful objects from classic science-fiction novels such as H.G. Well's The Time Machine. Leo and another library page, Jaya use the time machine to stop a dangerous enemy.
Shusterman, Neal	<i>Tesla's Attic</i> , 2014	Nick holds a garage sale and unknowingly gets rid of objects invented by Nikola Tesla. These items all have supernatural powers and evil scientists want to get their hands on these items. Can Nick and his friends get the objects back before they fall into the wrong hands?
Sloan, Holly Goldberg	<i>Counting by 7s</i> , 2013	Willow, a twelve year old genius is obsessed with the number seven. She must learn how to connect and make new friends after her adoptive parents are killed in a tragic car accident.

ENTERING 6TH GRADE - NONFICTION

Stone, Tanya Lee	<i>Courage Has No Color</i> , 2013	During WWII, the first black paratrooper unit was created called the Triple Nickels. The author tells of how racism existed in the military during WWII and how it affected the Triple Nickels - the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion.
Weakland, Mark	<i>Zombies and Electricity</i> , 2013	This story is told in graphic novel format and it uses zombies to explain the science of electricity.
Woodson, Jaqueline	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> , 2014	Written in prose, the author shares her childhood memories of growing up during the Civil Rights Movement in both the South and the North.
Yousafzai, Malala	<i>I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education and Changed the World</i> , 2014	The youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner tells her story about fighting for the right to be educated in war torn Pakistan. She nearly lost her life for this cause, but she has become an international educational activist by encouraging others to stand up for their beliefs.

ENTERING 7TH GRADE - FICTION

Brody, Jessica	<i>Unremembered</i> , 2013	A sixteen year old girl wakes up to find out she is the only survivor of a plane crash. She has no memories, no family, and no friends. In addition to being lost in the world she also discovers that she has mysterious super-human abilities. When a boy she doesn't recognize shows up claiming to know her life story, she doesn't know who she can trust. She wants to believe him as he attempts to help her escape from the organization responsible for making her forget her past, but the more she remembers the more questions she has.
Hartman, Rachel	<i>Seraphina</i> , 2012	Seraphina is half human and half dragon and must keep this secret hidden from everyone. Seraphina holds the key to not only stopping a war in her kingdom, but uniting a world filled with both humans and dragons.

Hasak-Lowy, Todd	<i>33 Minutes</i> , 2013	Have you ever had a fight with your best friend? Sam, a skinny seventh grader, has only 33 minutes until the epic battle begins in which his former best friend has promised to beat him up.
Krokos, Dan	<i>Planet Thieves</i> , 2013	Thirteen year old Mason Stark is a cadet on the spaceship SS Egypt. When it is attacked and boarded by an evil alien race, Mason and his fellow cadets must stop the aliens before they can steal planet Earth and all its inhabitants.
Nichols, Travis	<i>Matthew Meets the Man</i> , 2012	Matthew sets his sights on being a drummer in a rock 'n' roll band. It doesn't matter that he already plays the trumpet and can't save what little he earns because of dates with a new girlfriend, Christmas presents, and life in general. Matthew wants drums. And in true rock 'n' roll fashion, he won't let The Man (i.e., adults) get him down. Think: A more mature Wimpy Kid.
Picault, Jodi	<i>Between the Lines</i> , 2012	Prince Oliver and Delilah are the narrators of this story. Prince Oliver is stuck in his fairy tale trying desperately to escape from it. Delilah is obsessed with Prince Oliver and his story and tries to help him escape and join her in the "real" world.
Rushby, Allison	<i>Shooting Stars</i> , 2012	Zo Jo is a sixteen year old paparazzo sent on an undercover mission to get pictures of a teen heartthrob recovering in a rehab center.
Selznick, Brian	<i>Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures</i> , 2012	Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.
Shull, Megan	<i>The Swap</i> , 2014	It's the beginning of a new school year, and seventh grader Ellie has best friend issues and eighth grader Jack is experiencing pressure from his father. They switch bodies and lives for a weekend and learn so much about themselves, their friends and families, and the opposite sex.
Smith, Jennifer E.	<i>This is What Happy Looks Like</i> , 2013	A famous teenage movie star and a regular teenage girl become accidental friends through a mixed-up email. But when they meet in person, will their friendship blossom into something more?

Terry, Teri	<i>Slated</i> , 2013	In the future, teenage criminals are slated. Their memories and personalities are erased and they must start fresh. Kyla is one of these teens. The government claims she was a terrorist. When her memories begin to come back, Kyla must discover the truth in order to save her own life.
Vance, Alexander P.	<i>Heartbreak Messenger</i> , 2013	Quentin needs some extra money to help his single mom pay the bills. He devises a plan to deliver break up messages for students in his high school.
ENTERING 7TH GRADE - NONFICTION		
Jarrow, Gail	<i>Red Madness: How Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat</i> , 2014	One hundred years ago people, young, old, rich, and poor were dying of pellagra. The cause of the disease was unknown and blamed on everything from microbes, insects, diseased corn, to even Italians. Enter a young epidemiologist named Joseph Goldberger who solved the mystery of this terrible disease. This is a fascinating story of how science and scientific methods cracked the case and changed the diet of all Americans.
Keyser, Amber	<i>Sneaker Century: a History of Athletic Shoes</i> , 2015	“Sneakers/Kicks/Runners/Athletic Shoes/Gutties” have been around since the 1800s. Whatever you call them, there is probably a pair in your closet. Find out the real story of the history of the shoes, how they’re made and how they became so popular.
Losure, Mary	<i>Wild Boy</i> , 2013	In 1798, a young boy was found running wild in southern France. He could not speak or communicate in any way. He was taken to a hospital in Paris where he was educated and 'civilized'.
Moore, Wes	<i>Discovering Wes Moore</i> , 2012	By telling the story of his own life, Wes Moore looks carefully at the things in our lives that might lead us to succeed or fail. He also shares the parallel story of another Wes Moore, who shares his name and also grew up fatherless around the same time in similar circumstances in Baltimore, but who is now serving a life sentence for murder.)** This version has been adapted for young adults.

ENTERING 8TH GRADE - FICTION

Aveyard, Victoria	<i>The Red Queen</i> , 2015	Mare Barrow’s world is divided. Those with common red blood serve those with special silver blood who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare and her family are barely scraping by, until an accident shows that she has a gift of her own. She is adopted by the Silver royal family and forced to play a dangerous game to save her life and the lives of everyone she cares about.
Bodeen, S. A.	<i>The Raft</i> , 2012	En route to the Midway Atoll from Hawaii, the airplane Robie is flying on experiences technical difficulties and she and the co-pilot, Max, are stranded on an island as they await rescue that may never come.
Carson, Rae	<i>Girl of Fire and Thorns</i> , 2012	Elisa, sixteen year old princess and new bride to a neighboring king, finds her destiny as she helps save a country in chaos while being pursued by those with dark magic.
Cass, Kiera	<i>The Selection</i> , 2012	In the future kingdom of Illea, America Singer along with 34 other girls are selected to enter a competition to become the wife of Prince Maxon. At first, America has no wish to become the next princess, however Prince Maxon's charm slowly begins to win her over. What will she do when her ex-boyfriend Aspen shows up at the palace as part of the king's guard?
Clement-Moore, Rosemary	<i>Spirit and Dust</i> , 2013	Daisy Goodnight can speak to the dead and uses her gift to help the FBI solve murders. After a mob boss's daughter is kidnapped, Daisy must race against time to solve the case and try not to get distracted by cute FBI agent Carson.
Ellis, Ann Dee	<i>The End or Something Like That</i> , 2014	Before Kim died of a heart condition, Emmy and Kim made a pact. Emmy would contact Kim’s spirit once she passed on to the afterlife. However, Emmy is able to see many spirits, including her science teacher’s, but not her best friend Kim’s. It turns out, Emmy has to let go of the past in order to move forward with the future.

Erskine, Kathryn	<i>Seeing Red</i> , 2013	Set in 1972 rural Virginia, young Red Porter must deal with his father's recent death, the possible move from his home to Ohio, a violent and racist gang and unsettling questions about his family's past. Can he fix an injustice that happened almost 100 years ago?
Henry, April	<i>The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die</i> , 2013	Cady wakes up with no memory, but she knows she is in danger. She discovers she is being held captive by two men who are planning to kill her. After escaping, she meets Ty who helps her solve the mystery of her life and why she was supposed to die.
Laban, Elizabeth	<i>The Tragedy Paper</i> , 2013	Tim Macbeth is a new student at a prestigious boarding school. When he moves into his new room, he discovers a set of CDs recorded by the room's former tenant. Listening to the CDs, Tim becomes enthralled with the story of last year's senior class, while falling for the most popular girl at the school and trying to write his senior year thesis.
Ritter, William	<i>Jackaby</i> , 2014	If you take Sherlock and give him the ability to see ghosts, then you have one of our quirky main characters, Jackaby. Jackaby is a detective and is need of an assistant who can pay attention to the real world details that he oftentimes doesn't notice. Abigail Rook has just arrived in New Fiddleham, New England after running away from her London home searching for adventure. Abigail needs a job and applies at Jackaby's detective agency. Jackaby, desperate for an assistant, gives Abigail the job. Abigail and Jackaby will have to use their unique abilities and skills to help solve a case.
Smith, Jennifer E.	<i>The Geography of You and Me</i> , 2014	Lucy and Owen meet after being stuck in their apartment's elevator during a blackout in New York City. Lucy is from money, while Owen is not. Despite being from different worlds, they spend one magical evening together during the blackout. Lucy later moves abroad while Owen stays in the USA. Can fate reunite them again?

Wiles, Deborah	<i>Revolution, 2014</i>	It is Mississippi in 1964. The Civil Rights Act has just been passed allowing anyone of any color to be allowed to use all public facilities. This book is written through the eyes of Sunny, a white girl, and Raymond, a black boy, as the events of the Freedom Summer unfold. Many pictures, lyrics, poems, quotes, and news stories are included to bring the reader into the time period.
ENTERING 8TH GRADE - NONFICTION		
Bortz, Alfred B.	<i>Meltdown! The Nuclear Disaster in Japan and Our Energy Future , 2012</i>	A physicist examines the latest nuclear disaster and its ramifications for the world's energy future. On March 11, 2011, at 2:46 p.m., the biggest earthquake in Japan's history hit the Tohoku region, northeast of Tokyo. A wall of water as high as 128 feet and 110 miles wide surged onto the closest land, damaging or destroying more than 125,000 buildings. Thirty thousand people were killed, injured or missing, and more bad news was to come: Three nuclear reactors were about to undergo meltdowns.
Ellis, Deborah	<i>Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through Never Ending War, 2012</i>	Ten years after the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, author Deborah Ellis visits the country to interview children from ages ten to seventeen about their lives today. Although the situation for some has improved, they still live in a climate of daily oppression, danger and want. Yet there is hope for the future radiating from within their stories.
Hillenbrand, Laura	<i>Unbroken: an Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive, 2014</i>	True account of Louie Zamperini's struggle to survive imprisonment in a Japanese prisoner of war camp during World War II. **This version is adapted for young adults.
Prins, Marcel	<i>Hidden Like Anne Frank: 14 True Stories of Survival, 2014</i>	Fourteen different accounts of Jewish children and teenagers who survived WWII by being hidden by relatives and/or complete strangers. A website accompanies the book which provides animated clips and stories told in the native tongue of the survivors.