



Middle School Students,

We want to thank you for a great year! We are genuinely looking forward to next year. Attached is your summer reading assignment. The list is designed to give you choices that will encourage a love of knowledge and reading.

We also recommend building up your typing skills, as it will be tremendously valuable as you transition to typed reports, which will grow as you progress into high school and college. Now is the time to learn accurate typing, not to hunt and peck, which is much slower!

We suggest just 4-5 hours of typing instruction spread throughout the summer.

Here is a program we have found successful: [www.typingclub.com](http://www.typingclub.com).

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!

The Middle School Team

## Summer Reading List for Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

You are responsible for reading three books this summer and bringing your books to school on the first day of class. The required book must be read by all rising 8th graders in preparation for reading *The Aeneid* in 8th grade. The other books should be selected from the list below. These books vary in length and reading level. Explore in a library or read book descriptions on a book seller's website to help you determine which books you will enjoy. Happy reading, and have a wonderful summer!

### Required Book

*The Odyssey* by Homer

- Advanced readers should read an unabridged version. Samuel Butler's prose translation is recommended.
- Less advanced readers may opt for an abridged/re-told version such as *The Children's Homer* by Padraic Colum.

### History, Biography, Historical Fiction

*Augustus Caesar's World* by Genevieve Foster

*Herodotus and the Road to History* by Jeanne Bendick

*Archimedes and the Door of Science* by Jeanne Bendick

*Galen and the Gateway to Medicine* by Jeanne Bendick

*The Trojan War* by Olivia Coolidge (for new students unfamiliar with the Greek epic stories)

*Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliffe (1 of 3)

*The Silver Branch* by Rosemary Sutcliffe (2 of 3)

*The Lantern Bearers* by Rosemary Sutcliffe (3 of 3)

*Beric the Briton* by G.A. Henty

*The Young Carthaginian* by G.A. Henty

*For the Temple* by G. A. Henty

### Fairy Tales and Mythology

*The Complete Fairy Tales* by George MacDonald

*The Enchanted Castle* by Edith Nesbit

*The Red Fairy Book* by Andrew Lang (or any of his fairy books)

*Mythology* by Edith Hamilton

### Science & Nature

*Wild Animals I Have Known* by Ernest Seton

*School of the Woods* by William J Long

*A Little Brother to the Bear* by William J. Long

*Great Inventors and Their Inventions* by Frank Bachman

*The Mystery of the Periodic Table* by Benjamin Wiker and Jeanne Bendick

*The Elements* by Theodore Gray

*Eric Sloane's Weather Book* by Eric Sloan

*The Life of the Spider* by Jean Henri Fabre

*Great Astronomers* by R. S. Ball  
*Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* by Paul Brand

**Literature**

*The Lord of the Rings Trilogy* by J. R. R. Tolkien (any of the three)  
*The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis  
*The Prydain Chronicles* by Lloyd Alexander (any)  
*The Innocence of Father Brown* by G. K. Chesterton  
*Northanger Abbey, Pride & Prejudice, or Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Slave Dancer* by Paula Fox  
*The Once and Future King* by T.H. White  
*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
*Captains Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling  
*Puck of Pook's Hill* by Rudyard Kipling  
*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain  
*The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain  
*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Kim* by Rudyard Kipling  
*Rob Roy* by Sir Walter Scott  
*The Cricket on the Hearth* by Charles Dickens  
*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss  
*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne  
*Penrod* by Booth Tarkington  
*Watership Down* by Richard Adams  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Agnes Grey* by Anne Bronte  
*Cranford* by Elizabeth Gaskell

**Other**

*The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey