

MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
GRADE 8 - 2021
Mustangs Who Read Succeed!

There will be **no mandatory** reading requirement at Morton for summer 2021. However, for those of you who want to enrich and exercise your brain this summer, please find below some great, diverse options from our eighth grade level list. Happy reading!

1. **The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics - Young Reader's Adaptation** (9 points) - Daniel James Brown. This nonfiction book details the inspirational background story of the eight-oar crew from the University of Washington who, unexpectedly, went on to capture gold at the 1936 Olympics.
2. **The Boys Who Challenged Hitler** (7 points) - Pedersen, Knud and the Churchill Club. This nonfiction book details a group of teens who established the Churchill Club. The book explores the numerous actions the young men took to sabotage the Nazis which led to them becoming war heroes.
3. **Chinese Cinderella** (8 points) - Mah, Adeline Yen. After the death of her mother, Adeline endures a life of abuse from her family. Read this memoir to learn about the challenges she faced growing up in China.
4. **A Dog's Purpose** (13 points) - Cameron, Bruce. The true bond between man and his best friend is explored in a beautifully written dog's point of view novel that captures the many lives of one dog.
5. **Evermore** (13 points) - Holland, Sara. In this sequel to *Everless*, the main character, Jules, learns more about her surprising and confusing identity as the Alchemist, and because of her past, she becomes embattled with the Sorceress, her former friend. As a result, the kingdom where Jules lives believes her to be evil, so she must use pieces from the past to save the one she loves.
6. **Fast Break** (9 points) - Lupica, Mike. This is another uplifting and sports action filled book by this author. The main character, Jayson, is left homeless after the death of his mom. He does his best to avoid the foster care system, but once he's caught stealing, his life changes forever when he's placed in a foster home with the Lawtons on the other side of town. There he has to cope with a new home, new basketball teammates, and a new school, all while trying to achieve his goal of playing college ball.
7. **Four Miles to Pinecone** (2 points) - Hassler, Jon. This realistic fiction book is a page turner! After witnessing his best friend steal from a store where Tom works, this short novel deals with the main character's inner conflict to do the right thing or to take the easy way out.

8. **Frankenstein (unabridged)** (17 points) - Shelley, Mary. A chilling classic book about Victor, a curious individual who comes up with the idea of recreating life after it has been destroyed. Victor regrets making his creation after the monster causes destruction to those around him.
9. **Izzy Willy Nilly** (12 points) - Voight, Cynthia. Izzy has it all: beauty, brains, friends, poise, and popularity, but when she makes the poor choice to get inside a vehicle driven by a boy who's been drinking, her life is changed forever. This is a book all about growing wise, making tough choices, and, though no longer having it all, being able to put it all together.
10. **Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl** (1 point) - Bolden, Tonya. Based on an actual memoir, readers learn about the struggles of Maritcha, an African American child born free in New York City during the time period of slavery.
11. **Maze Runner Series** (AR points vary based on each book in the series.) - Dashner, James. Read any of the books in the *Maze Runner* science fiction trilogy or Prequel. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers--boys whose memories are also gone--and in a place that is riddled with puzzle and peril. So begins this fast-paced trilogy that will keep readers turning pages as Thomas desperately seeks to find his way out of this nightmare. Suspense and mystery abound!
12. **The Mother-Daughter Book Club Series** (AR points vary based on each book in the series.) - Frederick, Heather Vogel. Read any of the seven books in this delightful series about a few mothers who force their daughters to join a book club to the dismay of their daughters who aren't even friends. The humorous twists and turns, pranks, and struggles in the lives of the book club daughters are highly entertaining! The club members mature from middle school to the end of high school throughout the series, and each book focuses on a different Classic novel as the topic of book club.
13. **The Selection** (12 points) - Cass, Kiera. A fairy-tale romance that begins when thirty-five girls are selected to compete in the Selection. The winner of this competition gets to catapult through the caste system to marry a gorgeous prince and live in the palace. However, one selected contestant, America Singer, is distressed about her selection in this process and what it might mean for her future.
14. **Trouble the Water** (7 points) - Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Set in 1953 segregated Kentucky, two 12-year-olds, Wendell and Callie, form a dangerous friendship - for one is white and one African American. While seeking to solve the mystery of an old yellow dog in their town, the mystery leads them to a haunted cabin in the woods and to a far greater understanding of the segregated south.
15. **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March** - (1 point) - Lowery, Lynda Blackmon. The author of this book was the youngest participant at the historic voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. This memoir recounts her story of this day in history.