



2021-2022 Optional Expanded Summer Reading List Trafton Academy Incoming Eighth Grade

Read as many books as possible from the list below during the summer.

Allende, Isabel. ***City of the Beasts***. Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold leaves his home and family to join his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter, on an epic voyage with magical realism to a dangerous, remote part of the Amazon.

Avi. ***Nothing but the Truth: a Documentary Novel***. A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story. Newberry Honor book.

Barron, T.A. ***The Lost Years of Merlin***. A young boy who has neither identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Bauer, Joan. ***Stand Tall***. Tree, a six-foot-three-inch-twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school.

Beatty, Patricia. ***Charley Skedaddle***. During the Civil War, a twelve-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman.

Bradley, James. ***Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima*** (abridged). In February 1945, American marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima and into history. The son of one of the flag raisers has written a powerful account of six very different men who came together in the heroic battle for the Pacific's most crucial island.

Brooks, Bruce. ***Midnight Hour Encores***. A sixteen-year-old cellist and musical prodigy travels cross-country with her father, a product of the 1960's, to meet her mother, who abandoned her as a baby.

Cadnum, Michael. ***Ship of Fire***. In 1587, sailing to Spain on board Sir Francis Drake's ship, Elizabeth Bonaventure, a 17 year-old surgeon's apprentice, Thomas Spyre, finds that, with the sudden death of his master, he must take over as ship's surgeon and prove his skill not only as a doctor but also as a fighter when he is enlisted by Drake to face battle.

Card, Orsen Scott. ***Ender's Game***. Andrew "Ender" Wiggins, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer-simulated war games; in fact he is commanding the last great fleet of capital earth.

Cooney, Caroline. ***The Face on the Milk Carton***. Fifteen-year-old Janie Johnson recognizes her face as a three year old on a milk carton.

Cormier, Robert. ***I Am the Cheese***. A young boy who desperately tries to unlock his past knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.

Crichton, Michael. ***The Andromeda Strain***. Four American scientists race against an atomic deadline fighting a contaminating agent from outer space.

Farmer, Nancy. ***House of the Scorpion***. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Grisham, John. ***The Client***. Two young brothers become involved in a murder cover-up.

Hahn, Mary. ***Stepping on Cracks***. In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully, Gordy, when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town***. During the summer 1971, in a small Texas town, 13-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the World.

Jacques, Brian. ***Triss***. Triss, Shogg, and Wellfo escape from slavery at Riftgard and are pursued across the sea toward Redwall by Princess Kurdah, Prince Bladd, and a band of freebooters who seek the rumored treasure of Brockhall.

Laskey, Katherine. ***Beyond the Burning Time***. When, in the winter of 1691, accusations of witchcraft surface in her small New England village, twelve-year-old Mary Chase fights to save her mother from execution.

Lawrence, Iain. ***Lord of the Nutcracker Men***. An English boy during World War I comes to believe that the battles he enacts with his toy soldiers control the war his father is fighting on the front.

LeGuine, Ursula. ***The Wizard of Earthsea***. After pride causes him to unleash a demon, Zed is compelled to chase or escape from the ever-pursuing shadow.

London, Jack. ***The Call of the Wild***. Set during the Gold Rush, this is the story of Buck, a dog stolen from his home and transported to Alaska where he must survive in a pack of wolves.

Martin, Ann M. ***A Corner of the Universe***. The summer Hattie turns 12, she meets Adam, a childlike uncle she never knew existed, and who lifts the corners of her universe.

Mazer, Norma Fox. ***Good Night, Maman***. After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother, Marc, find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.

McKinley, Robin. ***Spindle's End***. The infant princess Briar Rose is cursed on her name day by Pernicia, an evil fairy, and then whisked away by a young fairy to be raised in a remote part of a magical country, unaware of her real identity and hidden from Pernicia's vengeful powers.

Meltzer, Milton. ***The Many Lives of Andrew Carnegie***. The biography of the Scottish immigrant who made a fortune in the steel industry and used much of it for philanthropic causes.

Meltzer, Milton. ***Piracy and Plunder, a Murderous Business***. This book surveys the history of pirates, why and how they became thieves and killers, the lives they led on sea and on land, the harm they did, and the fates they suffered.

Meyer, Carolyn. ***White Lilacs***. In 1921 in Dillon, Texas, twelve-year-old Rose Lee sees trouble threatening her black community when the whites decide to take the land there for a part and forcibly relocate the black families to an ugly stretch of territory outside the town.

Namioka, Lensey. ***Ties That Bind; Ties That Break; a Novel***. Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

Napoli, Donna. ***Daughter of Venice***. Donata longs to know the Venice beyond her balcony. She changes her life and her family's lives forever when she walks through the door and encounters a Venice she never knew existed.

Paolini, Christopher. ***Eragon***. In Aegaesia, a 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Park, Linda Sue. ***When My Name Was Keoko***. With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Winterdance: the Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod***. Paulsen's book is a "wild ride down a crazy trail" as he presents an unforgettable account of his participation in this 1180-mile race across Alaska.

Potok, Chaim. ***The Chosen***. The tale of two boys, their fathers, their friendship, and the chaotic times

in which they live.

Reeder, Carolyn. ***Shades of Gray***. At the end of the Civil War, twelve-year-old Will, having lost all his immediate family, reluctantly leaves his city home to live in the Virginia countryside with his aunt and the uncle he considers a "traitor" because he refused to take part in the war.

Rees, Celia. ***Sorceress***. 18-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian descended from a line of shamanic healers uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a 17th-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft to make her life with the local Indians.

Smith, Betty. ***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn***. The story of Francie and her brother growing up in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn in the early 20th century.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Stargirl***. Stargirl, a teen who animates quite Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.

Tolkien, J.R.R. ***The Hobbit***. 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.

Torres, John. ***Sports Great Tim Duncan***. This book profiles San Antonio Spurs' forward, Tim Duncan. It discusses his childhood, college years, and profiles his career in basketball.

Uris, Leon. ***Exodus***. An American nurse and an Israeli freedom fighter are caught in the 20th century's most dramatic event, the rebirth of Israel.

Uris, Leon. ***QB VII***. The bestselling novel of the courtroom clash between a famous writer and a doctor who claims to have been libeled.

Verne, Jules. ***20,000 Leagues Under the Sea***. A nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and undersea world, which anticipated many of the scientific achievements of the 20th century.

Whelan, Gloria. ***Homeless Bird***. When thirteen-year-old Koly enters an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.