

**Crestdale Middle School's
Recommended Summer Reading:
8th Grade**

Summer is an important time for students to keep reading and improving their language skills. If your child does not read regularly this summer, he/she may be in danger of the "summer slide"—a decline in their reading ability. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that students and parents choose books from this list for summer reading. These titles have been carefully chosen both to enhance skills and promote the love of reading! ***Students will be reflecting on their summer reading this fall in their Language Arts classes.***

Title	Author	Description	Lexile Level
<i>The Fault in our Stars</i>	John Green	<i>The Fault in Our Stars</i> is the story of Hazel Lancaster and Augustus Waters, two Indianapolis teenagers who meet at a Cancer Kid Support Group. Hazel lives tied to an oxygen tank, the tumors in her lungs kept at bay with a constant chemical assault. Augustus, an amputee in remission, takes an interest in Hazel. Their unexpected relationship sparks a journey that forces both of them to re-examine how sickness and health, life and death, will define them and the legacies they leave behind.	850
<i>Little Women</i>	Louisa May Alcott	<i>Little Women</i> is the "coming of age" story of the four March sisters: Meg, Beth, Jo, and Amy. Based loosely on Alcott's own life, the novel is full of both drama and comedy. Through various experiences of successes and hardships, love and loss, the March girls mature into little women who have learned much about life.	1300
<i>Dawn</i> Non-Fiction	Elie Wiesel	Elisha is a young Jewish man, a Holocaust survivor, and an Israeli freedom fighter in British-controlled Palestine; John Dawson is the captured English officer he will murder at dawn in retribution for the British execution of a fellow freedom fighter. The night-long wait for morning and death provides <i>Dawn</i> , Elie Wiesel's ever more timely novel, with its harrowingly taut, hour-by-hour narrative. Caught between the manifold horrors of the past and the troubling dilemmas of the present, Elisha wrestles with guilt, ghosts, and ultimately God as he waits for the appointed hour and his act of assassination.	740
<i>The Story of my Life</i> Autobiography	Helen Keller	Left blind, deaf, and mute after an illness in infancy, Helen Keller overcame her disabilities with the help of Anne Sullivan, her inspired teacher. Her classic autobiography, first published in 1903, covers her first 22 years. This deeply moving memoir offers an unforgettable portrait of one of the 20th century's most remarkable women.	1090
<i>Ender's Game</i>	Orson Scott Card	It's 2070, forty years since a devastating alien invasion was barely turned back, and the world is desperately searching for soldiers to lead them to victory when the "Buggers" come again. That's why they're drafting young children who pass a rigorous screening, and sending the best of them to the orbiting Battle School, where they are trained from childhood to be ready for war in the vertiginous reaches of space.	780

<i>The Time Keeper</i>	Mitch Albom	The inventor of the world's first clock is punished for trying to measure God's greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of all who come after him seeking more days, more years. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, along with a magical hourglass and a mission: a chance to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people the true meaning of time.	Reading Level 9 -12
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i>	Mildred D. Taylor	Follows a young African-American girl, Cassie, and her brothers as they come of age in rural Mississippi in the late 1920's. This novel explores issues of gender, racial, and socioeconomic inequality and injustice. This novel will be a good parallel to <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , as the two books in tandem encourage the readers to see the world at this time from the perspectives of characters who have entirely different backgrounds, yet have so much in common as they grow up in the Deep South during this tumultuous time.	920
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	Ray Bradbury	A classic Science Fiction set in a futuristic society where citizens are prohibited to own or read books. The novel follows the character Guy Montag as he wrestles with the choice of whether he should be complacent or whether he should revolt against the status quo. The novel explores themes such as censorship, knowledge vs. ignorance, and the essence of human nature. Students will explore what life is like when basic freedoms are denied.	890
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i> is usually the novel for which F. Scott Fitzgerald is best remembered. With this and other works, Fitzgerald forged his place in American literature as the chronicler of the Jazz Age of the 1920's. Written in 1925, the novel is a snapshot of the time period. We experience the glittery-splendiferous world of the wealthy--with the accompanying emptiness of morally decayed hypocrisy. Gatsby represents so much that is seductive, but his pursuit of passion--at the expense of all else--leads him to his own ultimate destruction.	1070
<i>Animal Farm</i>	George Orwell	<i>Animal Farm</i> uses barnyard animals to illustrate over 200 years of knowledge about leadership and power, distilling all of the huge mistakes great leaders have made over time. <i>Animal Farm</i> shows us how important it is to have passion when attempting to make things right and to revolutionize the world, but it also cautions us about how passion can lead to destruction when we assume a leadership role.	1170