

# Summer Reading Requirements For Students Entering the 8th Grade 2014-2015

**A house without books is like a room without windows.**  
~Heinrich Mann



Before entering the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, a Norton Middle School Student is expected to read 3 books over the summer. Take time over those hot, lazy summer days to curl up with a good book! We cannot wait to hear about your great summer reads when we meet you in August!

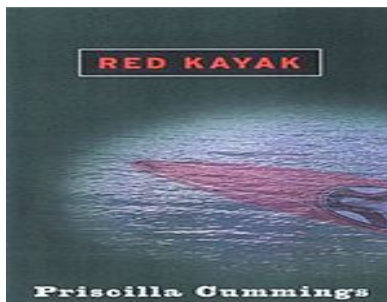
**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE:** In August, each student will take a book check quiz on the novels read over the summer. In order to participate in the Back to School Reading Celebration, you must score an 80% or higher on all 3 book check quizzes. Quizzes over book options 1-5 will be on Thursday, and quizzes over book options 6-10 will be on Friday, August 21-22, 2014.

**Some of these books will be available at the middle school Scholastic Book Fair near the end of May. Books will be buy 1 get 1 free!!!!**

Option 1 Realistic Fiction

**Red Kayak**

**by Priscilla Cummings**



Brady loves life on the Chesapeake Bay with his friends J.T. and Digger. But developers and rich families are moving into the area, and while Brady befriends some of them, like the DiAngelos, his parents and friends are bitter about the changes. Tragedy strikes when the DiAngelos' kayak overturns in the bay, and Brady wonders if it was more than an accident. Soon, Brady discovers the terrible truth behind the kayak's sinking, and it will change the lives of those he loves forever. Priscilla Cummings deftly weaves a suspenseful tale of three teenagers caught in a wicked web of deception.

Option 2 Realistic Fiction

**The Card Turner**

**by Louis Sachar**

LOUIS SACHAR  
THE CARDTURNER

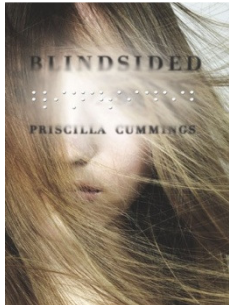


How are we supposed to be partners? He can't see the cards and I don't know the rules! The summer after junior year of high school looks bleak for Alton Richards. His girlfriend has dumped him to hook up with his best friend. He has no money and no job. His parents insist that he drive his great-uncle Lester to his bridge club four times a week and be his cardturner—whatever that means. Alton's uncle is old, blind, very sick, and very rich. But Alton's parents aren't the only ones trying to worm their way into Lester Trapp's good graces. They're in competition with his longtime housekeeper, his alluring young nurse, and the crazy Castaneda family, who seem to have a mysterious influence over him.

Option 3 Realistic Fiction

**Blindsided**

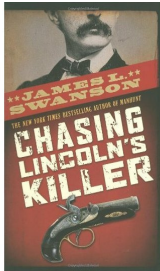
**by Priscilla Cummings**



In many ways, Natalie O'Reilly is a typical fourteen year- old girl. But a routine visit to the eye doctor produces devastating news: Natalie will lose her sight within a few short months. Suddenly her world is turned upside down. Natalie is sent to a school for the blind to learn skills such as Braille and how to use a cane. Outwardly, she does as she's told; inwardly, she hopes for a miracle that will free her from a dreaded life of blindness. But the miracle does not come, and Natalie ultimately must confront every blind person's dilemma. Will she go home to live scared? Or will she embrace the skills she needs to make it in a world without sight?

Option 4 Historical Nonfiction **Chasing Lincoln's Killer**  
**(Young Adult)**

**by James L. Swanson**

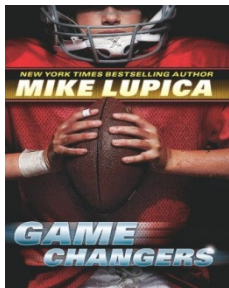


This story is true. All the characters are real and were. So begins this fast-paced thriller that tells the story of the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth and gives a day-by-day account of the wild chase to find this killer and his accomplices. Based on James Swanson's bestselling adult book MANHUNT: THE 12-DAY CHASE FOR LINCOLN'S KILLER, this young people's version is an accessible look at the assassination of a president, and shows readers Abraham Lincoln the man, the father, the husband, the friend, and how his death impacted those closest to him.

Option 5 Sports/Realistic Fiction

**Game Changer**

**by Mike Lupica**

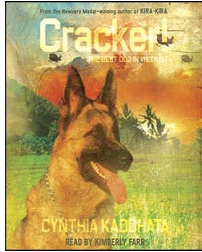


Ben McBain is every football team's dream player. He's a jack-of-all-trades guy that can handle almost any position. When the game is on the line, Ben's number is the one being called for the final play. But Ben wants to be the starting quarterback and the one thing standing in his way is the coach's son. Shawn O'Brien looks the part. He has been groomed by his father, a former professional quarterback. But despite his size and arm strength, Shawn is struggling. Ben is torn between being a good teammate and going after his own dream. As Ben finds out, Shawn isn't the easiest person to help. And when Ben gets an unexpected opportunity, the entire game will change for the both of them. **Best-selling author Mike Lupica kicks off a winning new series about sports and friendship that will captivate readers.**

Option 6 Historical Fiction

**Cracker**

**by Cynthia Kadohata**

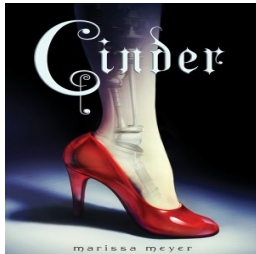


**CRACKER IS ONE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S MOST VALUABLE WEAPONS:** A German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Sometimes Cracker remembers when she was younger, and her previous owner would feed her hot dogs and let her sleep in his bed. That was nice, too. When Cracker is paired with Rick, she isn't so sure about this new owner. He's going to have to prove himself to *her* before *she's* going to prove herself to him. They need to be friends before they can be a team, and they *have* to be a team if they want to get home alive.

Option 7 Myth/Modern Fairytale

**Cinder**

**by Garth Stein**

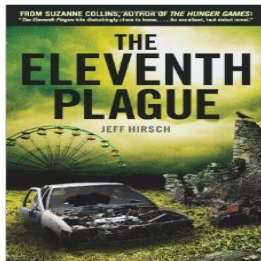


Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . .Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

Option 8 Sci-Fi/Utopian

**The Eleventh Plague**

**by Jeff Hirsch**

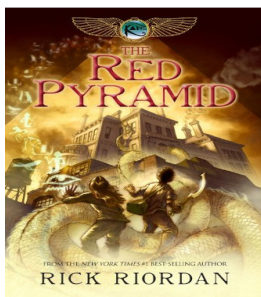


In the aftermath of a war, America's landscape has been ravaged and two-thirds of the population left dead from a vicious strain of influenza. Fifteen-year-old Stephen Quinn and his family were among the few that survived and became salvagers, roaming the country in search of material to trade. But when Stephen's grandfather dies and his father falls into a coma after an accident, Stephen finds his way to Settler's Landing, a community that seems too good to be true. Then Stephen meets strong, defiant, mischievous Jenny, who refuses to accept things as they are. And when they play a prank that goes horribly wrong, chaos erupts, and they find themselves in the midst of a battle that will change Settler's Landing--

Option 9 Fantasy/Action/Adventure

**The Red Pyramid**

**by Rick Riordan**

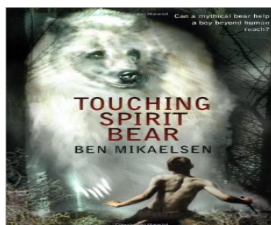


Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them--Set--has his sights on the Kanes. To stop him, the siblings embark on a dangerous journey across the globe--a quest that brings them ever closer to the truth about their family, and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

Option 10 Realistic Fiction

**Touching Spirit Bear**

**by Ben Mikaelson**



After severely injuring Peter Driscall in an empty parking lot, troublemaker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given an alternative: a one-year banishment to a remote Alaskan island. This program—called Circle Justice—is based on Native American traditions that provide healing for the criminal mind. To avoid serious jail time, Cole resolves to go. While there, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and left for dead. Thoughts of his abusive parents, helpless Peter, and his violent anger cause him to examine the root of his troubled ways.

Author Ben Mikaelson delivers a poignant depiction of the vicious cycle of violence and one boy's journey to healing.