

## STONEHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2021

## GRADE 8

We hope you read one, some, or many of the books on this [suggested list](#). Reading and rereading is fun and helps improve fluency and comprehension! These books tie into this year's Driving Question: "*How do we face our fears?*" Parents and guardians – please help your child choose a book that is appropriate for their interest/reading level. We encourage you to read and discuss the books with your children. You are not limited to this list - **feel free to explore other books, genres, and authors.**

You can purchase books from our favorite local bookstore, The Book Oasis, on Main Street (in-store and curbside pickup available). Click <a href="#">here</a> for their website.	You can also check books out from the Stoneham Public Library. Click the title of each book to go to the library catalog where you can place a hold. Click <a href="#">here</a> to see a video introducing Rachel, the librarian at the SPL.
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\*Easy \*\*Medium \*\*\*Challenging

\*[I Survived Series](#) by Lauren Tarshis. These books are awesome and there are so many! Fine one that is on a topic that is interesting to you! Our favorite - The Great Molasses Flood of 1919 - set in Boston!

\*[Ghost Boys](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. May not be a good fit for sensitive readers. Fiction. Historical Fiction.

\*[Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids](#) by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Editor) A collection of intersecting stories set at a powwow that bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride. In a high school gym full of color and song, Native families from Nations within the borders of the U.S. and Canada dance, sell beadwork and books, and celebrate friendship and heritage. They are the heroes of their own stories.

\*[The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora](#) by Pablo Cartaya. Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FAIL?

\*[Out of Left Field](#) by Ellen Klages. Every boy knows Katy Gordon is their best pitcher, even though she's a girl. But in 1957, girls are not eligible to play in Little League. It's not fair, and Katy's going to fight back. Inspired by what she's learning about civil rights in school, she sets out to prove that she's not the only girl who plays baseball. Historical Fiction.

\*\*[This Star Won't Go Out](#) by Esther Earl. This is the true story of the girl who inspired John Green's book *The Fault in Our Stars*. Esther, a MA resident, was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 12. The book is composed of her diary entries, her family's CaringBridge updates, and comments from friends. Memoir/Biography.

\*\*[Same But Different](#) by Holly Robinson Peete (Author), RJ Peete (Author), Ryan Elizabeth Peete (Author) being a teen with autism can be challenging--especially when you're up against dating, parties, sports, school, and other kids who just don't 'get' you. In this powerful book, teenagers Ryan Elizabeth Peete and her twin brother, Rodney, who has autism, share their up-close-and-personal experiences on what it means to be a teen living with autism. Nonfiction.

\*\*[Listen, Slowly](#) by Thanhha Lai. Mai's parents are making her spend her vacation in Vietnam so she can learn more about her roots and help her grandmother learn what really happened to her grand-father during the Vietnam War. As time goes on, Mai begins to grow closer to her family and develops an understanding of a culture and an entire world that she never really knew about. Funny at times and amazing. Fiction.

\*\*[The Iron Trial](#) by Holly Black. All his life, Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him. So he tries his best to do his worst - and fails at failing. Now the Magisterium awaits him. It's a place that's both sensational and sinister, with dark ties to his past and a twisty path to his future. The Iron Trial is just the beginning, for the biggest test is still to come . . . Fantasy. Series.

\*\*[The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club](#) by Phillip Hoose. At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen and his friends decided to take action against the Nazis. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually arrested the boys. The boys' efforts and eventual imprisonments helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance. Non-fiction.

\*\*\*[The Call of the Wild](#) by Jack London. Buck, a sturdy crossbreed canine (half St. Bernard, half shepherd), is a dog born to luxury and raised in a sheltered Californian home. But then he is kidnapped and sold to be a sled dog in the harsh and frozen Yukon Territory. Passed from master to master, Buck embarks on an extraordinary journey, proving his unbreakable spirit...Fiction - Classic.

\*\*\*[The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak. Death narrates this WWII story of a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel survives by stealing books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. Historical fiction. Best for mature readers.

\*\*\*[Checked](#) by Cynthia Kadohata. There are very few things Conor and his dad love more than hockey, and one of those things is their Doberman, Sinbad. When Sinbad is diagnosed with cancer, Conor chooses to put his hockey lessons and practices on hold so they can pay for Sinbad's chemotherapy. Then, a hit on the ice, and then, well, what happens when the one thing that makes you feel special, is no longer available? Fiction.

\*\*\*[Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice](#) by Philip Hoose. In 1955, a teenager refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette was shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. A year later she challenged segregation as a plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South. Nonfiction.

