8th Grade Summer Reading 2016

Charles Henderson Middle School

**Students registered for Pre-AP English 8** are required to read ***The Outsiders*** by S. E. Hinton before returning to school in August. In addition, these students must also read **ONE** of the titles listed below.

**Students registered for Advanced/Honors English 8** are required to read at least **ONE** of the following books before returning to school in August. Be prepared to take a quiz and write about the book’s setting, characters, plot, point of view, and theme. If you like the first in the series or the author’s style of writing, then try other books by the same author. Check out the author’s website for interactive activities and more information.

**\*NOTE: If there is a book on this list which you have previously read and taken the AR test, you MAY NOT select it as your summer reading book.**

***The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton (Realistic Fiction) (Reading Level: 4.7) (Required for Pre-AP – Optional for Adv/Honors)**

Summary quoted from [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

At a time when the average young-adult novel was, by Hinton’s characterization, “Mary Jane went to the prom,” *The Outsiders* shocked readers with its frank depictions of adolescents smoking, drinking, and “rumbling.” Although other pop culture offerings had dealt with these themes -- most notably *Rebel Without a Cause* and *Westside Story* – their intended audience was adult. By contrast, *The Outsiders* was a story “for teenagers, about teenagers, written by a teenager.” Hinton’s canny, candid appraisal of the conflict between Socs, or Socials, and Greasers . . . published when she was 17, was an immediate hit and remains the best-selling young-adult novel of all time.

***The Ruins of Gorlan* by John Flanagan (Fantasy/Adventure) (Reading Level: 7.0)**

Summary quoted from <http://www.rangersapprentice.com/>

Book #1 of the *Ranger’s Apprentice* Series

Meet fifteen year old Will, a foundling who is convinced that his father died a mighty warrior in battle. As Choosing Day commences, when young men and women become forever bound to a vocation, he hopes against hope to honor his father’s legacy and be selected for Battleschool training. Instead, he’s inducted into the ranks of the mysterious Ranger Corps. At first a reluctant recruit, Will gradually becomes drawn to the skills and secret ways of the Rangers.

***Uglies* by Scott Westerfield (Dystopian) (Reading Level: 5.2)**

Summary quoted from <http://scottwesterfield.com/books/>

*Uglies* is set in a world in which everyone has an operation when they turn sixteen, making the supermodel beautiful. Big eyes, full lips, no one fat or skinny. Yu might think this is a good thing, but it’s not. Especially if you’re one of the Smokies, a bunch of radical teens who’ve decided they want to keep their own faces. (How anti-social of them.)

***The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt (Historical Fiction) (Reading Level: 5.9)**

Summary quoted from [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

Newbery Honor Book *The Wednesday Wars* is a poignant coming-of-age story involving the funny misadventures of Long Island, New York seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood and his unlikely discovery of Shakespeare in the turbulent academic year of 1967-68.

***Warriors Don’t Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals (Non-Fiction/Memoir) (Reading Level: 6.5)**

Summary quoted from [www.teenink.com](http://www.teenink.com)

Can you imagine being one of nine black students chosen to integrate a school of over 2,000 white students? *Warriors Don’t Cry* is a compelling memoir of Melba Pattillo’s life during the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. When Pattillo volunteered to be one of the first black students to integrate the all-white high school, she hoped to show white students that blacks were their equals. But she didn’t know the battle that she would face.

***Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz (Action/Adventure) (Reading Level: 5.1)**

Summary quoted from [www.anthonyhorowitz.com](http://www.anthonyhorowitz.com)

They told him his uncle died in an accident. He wasn't wearing his seatbelt, they said. But when fourteen-year-old Alex finds his uncle's windshield riddled with bullet holes, he knows it was no accident. What he doesn't know yet is that his uncle was killed while on a top-secret mission. But he is about to, and once he does, there is no turning back. Finding himself in the middle of terrorists, Alex must outsmart the people who want him dead. The government has given him the technology, but only he can provide the courage. Should he fail, every child in England will be murdered in cold blood.