

The expectation is that all Brown School students entering grades 5-8 will read at least two age/grade appropriate novels before returning to school in September. When students return in September, they should be prepared to discuss their selections with their classmates. The following is a list of suggested titles; students are free to select from the list or read other titles of their choice

8TH GRADE LIST

Allende, Isabelle. Forest of the Pygmies. Rayo, HarperTrophy, 2006.

Eighteen-year-old Alexander Cold and his grandmother travel to Africa on an elephant-led safari, but discover a corrupt world of poaching and slavery.

Allende, Isabelle. Kingdom of the Golden Dragon. HarperTrophy, 2005.

Sixteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his grandmother, a writer for a geography magazine, to the remote Forbidden Kingdom in the Himalayas to help locate a sacred statue of a golden dragon before it is stolen by a greedy outsider.

Almond, David. Skellig. Dell Yearling, 2000.

Unhappy about his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving into a dilapidated old house, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger who is something like a bird and something like an angel.

Avi. Beyond the Western Sea, Book I: the Escape from Home. Avon, 1997.

Driven from their impoverished Irish village, fifteen-year-old Maura and her younger brother meet their landlord's runaway son in Liverpool while all three wait for a ship to America.

Avi. Beyond the Western Sea, Book II: Lord Kirkle's Money. Avon Camelot, 1998.

The three main characters continue their relationship and lives on board ship and in America.

Boyne, John. The Boy in the Striped Pajamas. David Fickling books, 2006.

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Game. Starscape, 2002.

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Shadow. Starscape, 2002.

Bean must overcome his past and prove to the recruiters at the Battle School that

he can help save the planet from an alien invasion.

Clancy, Tom. Hunt for Red October Berkley Books, 1985.

A dangerous race is on when the crew of the Soviet Union's new ballistic-missile submarine "Red October" attempts to defect to the United States, while being pursued by the Soviet Atlantic fleet which has been ordered to find and destroy the submarine at all costs.

Connor, Leslie. Dead on Town Line. Speak, 2006.

A teen girl has been murdered and her body dumped on the town line, an area that is not being searched. Written in free verse, the murdered girl helps lead searchers to her body.

Cormier, Robert. Fade. Delacorte, 2004.

In the summer of 1938, Paul Moreaux, the thirteen-year-old son of French Canadian immigrants, inherits the ability to become invisible, but this power soon leads to death and destruction.

Crichton, Michael. Jurassic Park. Ballantine Books, 1991.

An account of the attempt, through a hair-raising twenty-four hours on a remote jungle island, to avert a global emergency--a crisis triggered by today's rush to commercialize genetic engineering.

Dorros, Arthur. Under the Sun. Amulet Books, 2006.

Chronicles the harrowing journey of Ehmet, a thirteen-year-old boy from Sarajevo who gets caught up in the ethnic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia.

Herbert, Frank. Dune. Ace Trade, 2005.

The story of a young prince, Paul Atreides, scion of a star-crossed dynasty, and of his journey from boy to warrior to ruler of a dying planet destined to become a paradise regained.

Hoffman, Alice. Incantation. Little, Brown, 2007.

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.

Machado, Ana Maria. From Another World. Douglas & McIntyre, 2005.

Martin and his friends are helping their parents renovate an old Brazilian coffee plantation into an inn when they meet Rosario, the ghost of a slave girl from the 1800s.

Park, Linda Sue. When My Name was Keoko. Yearling, 2004.

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.

Roy, Jennifer. Yellow Star. Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

Sleator, William. Last Universe. Amulet Books, 2006.

When her desperately ill older brother insists that she take him into their mysterious backyard garden, designed by their quantum physicist great uncle, fourteen-year-old Susan discovers that things are not always what they seem.

Steinbeck, John. The Pearl. Penguin Books, 2002.

Kino, a poor Mexican pearl-diver, believes he has received the answer to his prayers when he finds a great pearl worth a fortune, but tragedy soon follows.

Tolkien, J. R. R. The Hobbit: or There and Back Again. Houghton Mifflin, 2001.

Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit, becomes a thief for a band of dwarves and soon finds himself in the midst of a war with the evil goblins and wargs, and forced to make a decision between the call of duty and the pull of the simple life.

Wilder, Thornton. Bridge of San Luis Rey. Perennial, 2003.

A tiny footbridge in Peru collapses, and five people fall to their deaths. Why these five? And, how did they come to be on the bridge that day?

Zindel, Paul. The Pigman. Harper Trophy, 2005.

Two high school sophomores from unhappy homes form a close friendship with a lonely old man who has a terrible secret.