

Rising 8th Grade Reading List
St. Anthony School, El Segundo

All rising 8th graders are required to read:

Bloor, Edward- TANGERINE

So what if he's legally blind? Even with his bottle-thick, bug-eyed glasses, Paul Fisher can see better than most people. He can see the lies his parents and brother live out, day after day. No one ever listens to Paul, though--until the family moves to Tangerine. In Tangerine, even a blind, geeky, alien freak can become cool. Who knows? Paul might even become a hero!

Additionally, all rising 8th graders should choose TWO books from the attached list to read over the summer (thus students will be reading a minimum of three books). One of these books should be used for the cereal box report and the other should be used for the attached writing assignment.

Any student that reads 10 or more of these books will go on a field trip to Rite Aide the first week of school for a complimentary ice cream prize!

Adams, Richard – WATERSHIP DOWN

A phenomenal worldwide bestseller for over thirty years, Richard Adams's *Watership Down* is a timeless classic and one of the most beloved novels of all time. Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious Promised Land and a more perfect society.

Albom, Mitch- TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor. We meet Morrie Schwartz--a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. We are privy to intimate moments of Morrie's final days, as he lies dying from a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed man manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully.

Ambrose, Stephen – D-DAY - JUNE 6, 1944: THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II

The largest and most ambitious invasion in the history of the world - D-Day tells the story of brave citizen soldiers—junior officers and enlisted men—who took the initiative to act on their own to penetrate Hitler's Atlantic Wall when they realized that nothing was as they were told it would be. A brilliant retelling of the battles of Omaha and Utah beaches, based on information only now available from interviews with surviving veterans and government archives – a blockbuster!

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Austen, Jane – Pride and Prejudice

Elizabeth Bennet is the perfect Austen heroine: intelligent, generous, sensible, and incapable of jealousy or any other major sin. That makes her sound like an insufferable goody-goody, but the truth is she's a completely hip character, who if provoked is not above skewering her antagonist with a piece of her exceptionally sharp -- but always polite -- 18th century wit.

Bell, Ted – NICK OF TIME

The setting is England, 1939, on the eve of war. Nick and his younger sister, Kate, live in a lighthouse on the smallest of the Channel Islands. One day Nick discovers an old sea chest, left for him by his ancestor, Captain Nicholas McIver of the Royal Navy. Inside, he finds a time machine and a desperate plea for help from the captain. He uses the machine to return to the year 1805. Captain McIver and, indeed, Admiral Nelson's entire fleet are threatened by the treachery of the French and the mutinous Captain Billy Blood. Nick must reach deep inside, using his wits, courage, and daring to rescue the imperiled British sailors.

Bauer, Joan – HOPE WAS HERE

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Cashore, Kristen – GRACELING

Lady Katsa is a Graceling, with an inborn magical gift marking her as both feared outcast and exploitable resource. While her peculiar Grace-the unsurpassed ability to kill-has been honed over the years by her uncle the king to bully and punish, Katsa has also secretly used it to bring a measure of justice to the Kingdoms.

Christie, Agatha – AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

Agatha Christie's most famous and acclaimed novel! Ten strangers are gathered together on an isolated island by a mysterious host. They share the darkest secrets of their pasts, and then, one by one, they die.

Cochrane, Mick – THE GIRL WHO THREW BUTTERFLIES

Molly wants to join the *boys'* baseball team. Her late father taught her how to throw a knuckleball, and she hopes it's enough to impress her coaches as well as her new teammates. Over the course of one baseball season, Molly must figure out how to redefine her relationships to things she loves, loved, and might love: her mother; her brilliant best friend, Celia; her father; her enigmatic and artistic teammate, Lonnie; and of course, baseball. Throwing a knuckleball can be a lot like life – you prepare yourself as best you can then rear back and let it go – having faith it will float into the strike zone and if it doesn't, not letting the discouragement keep you from throwing another ...

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Dessen, Sarah – THAT SUMMER

Haven's life is changing too quickly. She's nearly six feet tall, her father is getting remarried, and her sister, the always perfect Ashley, is planning a wedding of her own. Haven wishes things could just go back to the way they were. Then an old boyfriend of Ashley's reenters the picture, and through him, Haven sees the past for what it really was, and comes to grips with the future.

Dickens, Charles – OLIVER TWIST

Donnelly, Jennifer – A NORTHERN LIGHT

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiance, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest.

Based on a true story.

Doyle, Arthur Conan – THE HOUND OF BASKERVILLES

The Baskerville family has been haunted for generations by a fearsome hound - a phantom beast with blazing eyes and dripping jaws. Surely it is just a legend? Then Sir Charles is found mysteriously dead in the grounds of Baskerville Hall. It is time to bring in Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson, to discover the truth about the family curse...

Farmer, Nancy – THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION

Matt is a teenage clone living in a new country located between the United States and Mexico. His father, one hundred and forty two years old, is one of the drug lords controlling the country. Matt thinks his life is going pretty well until a terrible realization dawns upon him: The only reason his father is keeping him around is for spare parts!

Feinstein, John – COVER UP- MYSTERY AT THE SUPER BOWL

The Super Bowl: America's biggest sports spectacle. More than 95 million fans will be watching, but Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson know that *what* they'll be watching is a lie. They know that the entire offensive line of the California Dreams have failed their doping tests and that the Dreams' owner is trying to cover up the test results. These two teens are sitting on the biggest sports scandal of the decade. What they don't know -yet - is how to prove it.

Elliot, L. M. – UNDER A WAR-TORN SKY

When Henry Forester is shot down during a bombing run over France, the World War II pilot finds himself trapped behind enemy lines. In constant danger of discovery by German soldiers, Henry begins a remarkable journey to freedom. Relying on the kind ness of strangers, Henry moves from town to town— traveling by moonlight, never asking questions, or even the names of the people who help him along the way.

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Haugaard, Erik – THE SAMURAI’S TALE

In turbulent sixteenth-century Japan, orphaned Taro is taken in by a general who is serving the great warlord Takeda Shingen. Taro grows up to become a samurai fighting for the enemies of his dead family.

Henke, Kevin – OLIVE’S OCEAN

Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends. But they weren’t — and now all that is left are eerie connections between two girls who were in the same grade at school and who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now Martha can’t stop thinking about Olive. A family summer on Cape Cod should help banish those thoughts; instead, they seep in everywhere.

Higson, Charlie – DOUBLE OR DIE – YOUNG BOND BOOK THREE

Kidnapping. Explosions. Murder. This is no ordinary weekend. But then, James Bond is no ordinary boy. . . In a north London cemetery, a professor is kidnapped at gunpoint. Then, a suspicious letter crammed with cryptic clues arrives at Eton. To decipher the deadly mystery, James Bond must take a series of dangerous gambles. Once the code is cracked he has just forty-eight hours to save the professor from the dark forces that threaten to destroy them both. And if they can’t escape, it’s not only their future under threat. It’s the rest of the world’s...

Hughes, Dean – SEARCH AND DESTROY

Rick Ward wants to go to war. And he’s not sure why. Maybe he’s running from his dad and his crazy temper. Maybe he’s running from his girl, who seems to think he’s more of a joke than a man. Or maybe he’s just running—to find himself. But after Rick ventures into the Vietnam jungle, he discovers that no one—not protestors, politicians, or writers—has got a clue. War is far bigger, scarier, and more complicated than anything he ever could have imagined.

Kidd, Sue Monk – THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily’s fierce-hearted “stand-in mother,” Rosaleen, insults three of the town’s fiercest rednecks, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina—a town that holds the secret to her mother’s past.

Lupika, Mike – HEAT

Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Orphaned after his father led the family’s escape from Cuba, Michael’s only family is his seventeen-year-old brother Carlos. They might have to rely on more than Michael’s fastball to make it in their new world!

Mass, Wendy – EVERY SOUL A STAR

Ally, her brother Kenny, and her parents have been waiting years for three minutes of sheer amazement- one of the rare times when the moon passes between the sun

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and the earth, creating a total solar eclipse. So have hundreds of other people—in the weeks before the eclipse, the Moon Shadow begins to overflow with eclipse chasers. Although most of the chasers are giddy with excitement, Bree, a self-proclaimed wanna-be-model craves fashion, color, and lipstick and not the stars, planets, and other amazing things just a telescope glance away. So when Bree and Ally's parents conspire to "switch places," Bree is devastated to learn that she will be staying in country bumpkin land and Ally is terrified to learn that she will be leaving the only life she's ever known to become a "city girl."

Marsh, Katherine – THE NIGHT TOURIST

Jack Perdu, a shy, ninth grade classics prodigy, lives with his father at Yale University. When he suffers a near fatal accident, Jack's father sends him to see a mysterious doctor in New York City—a place Jack hasn't been since his mother died there eight years ago. In New York, Jack meets a girl named Euri who leads him into the city's Underworld, a place where those who died in New York reside until they are ready to move on. This, Jack believes, is a chance to see his mother again. But as secrets about Euri's past are revealed, so are the true reasons for Jack's visit to the Underworld.

Millard, Candice – THE RIVER OF DOUBT: THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S DARKEST JOURNEY

The River of Doubt – it's a black, uncharted tributary of the Amazon that snakes through one of the most treacherous jungles in the world. Indians armed with poison-tipped arrows haunt its shadows; piranhas glide through its waters; boulder-strewn rapids turn the river into a roiling cauldron. Along the way, Roosevelt and his men face an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks....

Greg Mortenson- Three Cups of Tea Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time (The Young Reader's Edition)

Hiking in the mountains of Pakistan in 1993, Mortenson got lost. He found his way to a small village where the locals helped him recover from his ordeal. While there, he noticed that the students had no building and did all of their schooling out of doors. Motivated to repay the kindness he had received, he vowed to return to the village and help build a school. Thus began his real life's journey. Mortenson's story recounts the troubles he faced in the U.S. trying to raise the money and then in Pakistan, trying to get the actual supplies to a remote mountain location.

Pfetzner, Mark and Galvin, Jack – WITHIN REACH: MY EVEREST STORY

Mark Pfetzner is a typical American high school student except for one little detail: He wants to become the youngest person to ever scale Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world. Will he make it? Find out in this chilling first-person account!

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Rees, Celia – WITCH CHILD

Enter the world of young Mary Newbury, a world where simply being different can cost a person her life. Hidden until now in the pages of her diary, Mary's startling story begins in 1659, the year her beloved grandmother is hanged in the public square as a witch. Mary narrowly escapes a similar fate, only to face intolerance and new danger among the Puritans in the New World. How long can she hide her true identity? Will she ever find a place where her healing powers will not be feared?

Schlosser, Eric, Wilson, Charles – CHEW ON THIS: EVERYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FAST FOOD

This book is all about fast-food and how it has changed our history and economy throughout time. If you are interested in finding about the truth of fast-food, such as where it comes from, and what is really in it, then you will find this book very intriguing.

Scoggins, Chaz – GAME OF MY LIFE

Memorable Stories of Red Sox Baseball traces back nearly 70 years, almost to the very start of the seminal Yawkey Era, recalling some of the greatest players in Red Sox history and some of their greatest games. Beginning with Bobby Doerr, the Hall of Fame second baseman who joined the Red Sox in 1937, this book will touch on players and their most memorable games from every decade right up to those who finally experienced the exhilaration of winning that elusive World Series.

Scott, Michael – THE ALCHEMYST (THE SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL NICHOLAS FLAMEL #1)

The tomb of Nicholas Flamel is empty. The greatest alchemist of his day supposedly died in 1418, but rumors continue to swirl that he continues to walk among us. Could it be true that this magician/chemist has access to the secret of eternal life? Could the Book of Abraham, which he purportedly owns, hold the key to this elixir? If it does, the theft of this single ancient volume could destroy the world as we know it.

Smith, Betty – A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN

The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg, New York City has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness—in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

Sonenblick, Jordan – DRUMS, GIRLS AND DANGEROUS PIE

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his

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five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, *DRUMS, GIRLS, AND DANGEROUS PIE* is a heart warming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

Spinelli, Jerry – STARGIRL

Stargirl is different (her real name is Susan). She's been home-schooled her whole life when she starts at a regular high school. At first the other kids think she's weird, then they think she's great, then they ... read the book and find out!

Steinbeck, John – THE PEARL

A priceless pearl brings greed, treachery and loss to a poor Mexican pearl diver, his wife and their infant son...

Thompson, Kate – THE NEW POLICEMAN

Who knows where the time goes? There never seems to be enough time in Kinvara, or anywhere else in Ireland for that matter. When J.J.'s mother says that what she really wants for her birthday is more time in her day, J.J. decides to find her some. It seems as though J.J.'s given himself an impossible task. But then a neighbor reveals a secret to him—there is a place where time stands still. J.J. realizes he's the only person who can make the journey. When J.J. disappears from the village, enter the new policeman.

Yolen, Jane and Harris, Robert J. – QUEEN'S OWN FOOL: A NOVEL OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTTS

A resourceful and clever jester to the queen's court, Nicola was a most unlikely person to end up "fool" and friend to Mary, Queen of Scots. But Nicola isn't an ordinary comedian tumbling and clowning before the court; her quick wit and sharp tongue are rare amongst the fawning nobles. As fate takes Mary from France to Scotland, and into confrontations with rebellious lords and devious advisors, Nicola remains deep in the queen's inner circle. But when the Scots start to turn on Queen Mary, Nicola struggles to find something-anything-that she, just a fool, can do to save her friend.

Zevin, Gabrielle and McGhee, Alison – ELSEWHERE

Elsewhere is out of this world. Within this pleasant, inviting place, so much like Earth, no one gets sick or grows old. In fact, everyone is growing younger. For 15-year-old Liz Hall, who arrives in Elsewhere after her demise, aging backward is not a happy prospect. Like any living teenager, she wants to turn 16, not 14; yearns to fall in love, not reenter infancy.