

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Suggestions

### *Mosquitoland* by David Arnold

When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

### *The Demon King* by Cinda Williams Chima

Relates the intertwining fates of former street gang leader Han Alister and headstrong Princess Raisa, as Han takes possession of an amulet that once belonged to an evil wizard and Raisa uncovers a conspiracy in the Grey Wolf Court.

### *Clockwork Angel* by Cassandra Clare

Sixteen-year-old Tessa Gray travels to England in search of her brother only to be abducted by the Dark Sisters, residents of London's Downworld, home to the city's supernatural folk, and she becomes the object of much attention--both good and bad--when it is discovered she has the power to transform at will into another person.

### *Something In Between* by Melissa De la Cruz

After learning of her family's illegal immigrant status, Jasmine realizes that college may be impossible and that deportation is a real threat, uncertainties she endures as she falls for the son of a congressman who opposes an immigration reform bill.

### *Gym Candy* by Carl Deuker

Mick Johnson works hard for a placement on the varsity team during his freshman year, and decides to use steroids in order to hold onto his edge, despite the consequences to his health and social life.

### *A Little Something Different: Fourteen Viewpoints, One Love Story* by Sandy Hall

The creative writing teacher, the local baristas, his best friend, her roommate, and the squirrel in the park all have one thing in common--they believe that Gabe and Lea should get together. They have a lot in common, but unfortunately, Lea is reserved, Gabe is shy, and despite their mutual crush, it looks like they are never going to work things out.

### *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han (Book 1)

What if all the crushes you ever had found out how you felt about them...all at once? Sixteen-year-old Lara Jean keeps her love letters in a hatbox her mother gave her. They aren't love letters that anyone else wrote for her; these are ones she's written. One for every boy she's ever loved--five in all. When she writes, she pours out her heart and soul and says all the things she would never say in real life, because her letters are for her eyes only. Until the day her secret letters are mailed, and suddenly, Lara Jean's love life goes from imaginary to out of control. This book is followed by *P.S. I Still Love You* and *Always and Forever, Lara Jean*.

*When We Collided* by Emery Lord

Bipolar seventeen-year-old Vivi is escaping home (and her meds) in Verona Cove, California, where "townie" Jonah is trying to keep his family afloat after his father's death. The two quickly find themselves in a relationship as confusing and intense as one of Vivi's manic episodes. Both characters' experiences read true, but Vivi's voice--which changes poignantly and seamlessly with her moods--steals the show.

*Bang* by Barry Lyga

Fourteen-year-old Sebastian lives in the past: when he was four years old, he accidentally shot and killed his four-month-old sister. This haunts him, leading to obsessive self-hate and suicidal feelings. He is waiting, in fact, for the voice in his head to tell him it's time to effect his end. That time seems imminent as his past and future seem to come together, faster and faster until he meets Aneesa. The two become friends, bonding over a YouTube channel they create that features Sebastian making pizzas.

*Delirium* by Lauren Oliver

Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, predictable, and happy life, until ninety-five days before her eighteenth birthday and her treatment, when she falls in love.

*Out of Nowhere* by Maria Padian

Performing community service for pulling a stupid prank against a rival high school, soccer star Tom tutors a Somali refugee with soccer dreams of his own.

*The Ghost of Graylock* by Dan Poblocki

Staying with their aunts over the summer, Neil Cady, his sister Bree, and their new friends Wesley and Eric, set out to explore Greylock Hall, an abandoned psychiatric hospital which is supposed to be haunted by the ghost of Nurse Janet.

*All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds

When a quick stop at the corner store suddenly escalates into police brutality, high school classmates Rashad (who is African American) and Quinn (who is white) are linked and altered by the violence--Rashad as victim and Quinn as witness. This nuanced novel explores issues of racism, power, and justice with ethnically diverse characters.

*A List of Cages* by Robin Roe

Fourteen-year-old Julian Harlow looks "like an anime character," with shiny black hair almost falling into his "enormous round eyes." He is shy, sweet, and secretly good at singing and storytelling, but his uncle is beating the light, and life, out of him. Adam Blake, a high school senior, knows and loves Julian because the boy came to live with him and his mother as a foster child after his parents were killed. But it's been five years since Julian's abusive uncle took him in, and the boy, young-seeming for 14, is decidedly worse for wear.

*Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.

*This is What Happy Looks Like* by Jennifer E. Smith

"Perfect strangers Graham Larkin and Ellie O'Neill meet online when Graham accidentally sends Ellie an e-mail about his pet pig, Wilbur. The two 17-year-olds strike up an e-mail relationship from opposite sides of the country and don't even know each other's first names. What's more, Ellie doesn't know Graham is a famous actor, and Graham doesn't know about the big secret in Ellie's family tree. When the relationship goes from online to in-person, they find out whether their relationship can be the real thing"--Provided by publisher.

*The Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater

Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger, and when she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own--and that together their talents are a dangerous mix.

*Blood on My Hands* by Todd Strasser

Callie becomes a suspect in the murder of her best friend, Katherine, when Callie is the first to find Katherine's body lying in the woods and, assuming the scenario is part of a Halloween prank, picks up a bloody knife only to discover it is real.

*Zeroes* (Book 1) by Scott Westerfeld

Told from separate viewpoints, teens Scam, Crash, Flicker, Anonymous, Bellwether, and Kelsie, all born in the year 2000 and living in Cambria, California, have superhuman abilities that give them interesting but not heroic lives until they must work as a community to respond to a high stakes crisis. *Swarm* is Book 2.

*The 5th Wave* by Richard Yancey

"Cassie Sullivan, the survivor of an alien invasion, must rescue her young brother from the enemy with help from a boy who may be one of them"--Provided by publisher.

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.