

Summer Reading List

Eighth Grade

Pre-8th grade students are required to purchase and read *Parallel Journeys* by Eleanor Ayer, and then choose and purchase any two books from the list below. Write a one-paragraph summary for each of the three books. Other requirements for these books will be completed in class when school resumes in August. Students must have actual copies of their three books to complete the requirements.

REQUIRED BOOK

Parallel Journeys by Eleanor Ayer

A female survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp meets a former male member of the Hitler Youth movement. They recount their war experiences and describe how they met forty years later.

BOOK CHOICES

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

The true story of Corrie ten Boom and the efforts she and her sister made to save Jews during World War II. Their faith helped them survive a Nazi prison camp.

Between Shades of Grey by Ruta Sepetys

Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941, until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia. Here they are forced, under Stalin's orders, to dig for beets and fight for their lives under the cruelest of conditions.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

A young girl, trying to make sense of the trials of Nazi Germany, discovers the beauty of literature after stealing books and retelling stories to comfort others, including a Jewish man hiding in the basement.

Night by Elie Wiesel

A true account of the author's experiences as a Jewish boy with his family in a Nazi concentration camp.

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 resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. 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 had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance.

Goodbye, Antoura: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide by Karnig Panian

This memoir offers the extraordinary story of what Karnig Panian endured at an orphanage in Antoura, Lebanon — as his people were deported from their Armenian community, as his family died in a refugee camp in the deserts of Syria, as he survived hunger and mistreatment in the orphanage. His story shows us how even young children recognize injustice and can organize against it, how they can form a sense of identity that they will fight to maintain. His is a story of loss, resistance, and survival, but told without bitterness or sentimentality.