

**EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST
2010-2011**

Students entering the eighth grade literature class in the fall are to have read at least ONE of the selections from Group A and ONE of the selections from Group B. An assignment follows the list.

GROUP A

Tuesdays with Morrie, Alбом Writer Mitch Alбом chronicles his visits with his very special, and dying, seventy-eight-year-old college professor, Morrie Schwartz, whose final lessons shed light on how to live.

The Book Thief, Zosak This book is set in Germany in WWII. It is the story of a young girl who, in spite of having a life no one would wish on anyone, still manages to have a glimpse of pleasure through small things, including a few books she manages to “acquire”.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Haddon The story of Christopher John Francis Boone, a fifteen-year-old mathematically gifted, autistic boy, who investigates the death of his neighbor’s dog after being initially blamed.

Coal Black Horse, Olmstead When Robey Child’s mother has a premonition about her husband, a soldier fighting in the Civil War, she sends her only child to find him and bring him home. However, it takes the gift of a powerful and noble coal black horse to show him how to undertake the most important journey of his life.

GROUP B

The Contender, Lipsyte Alfred Brooks must placate his Harlem gang---and the white world as well. (Of greater interest to boys.)

My Sister’s Keeper, Picoult Picoult’s novel is about a young girl who sues her parents for the right to make her own decisions about how her body is used for the health of her sister.

The Pigman, Zindel Two lonely high school students meet Mr. Pignati, an old man who lives in his dreams and makes daily visits to the baboons at the zoo. The three find love and laughter, but only for a short time.

Speak, Anderson Melinda Sordino broke up an end-of-summer party by calling the police so now her old friends won’t talk to her. The safest place to be is in her own head. However, there is something she is trying not to think about, something about the party.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT TO BE COMPLETED BY JULY 15th AND SENT TO:

Mrs. Van Arsdale
660 West 69th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64113

A review of each of the books you read this summer should answer the following questions. You are to use complete sentences in completing the review. In addition, the assignment should be typed.

1. The title and author of the book.
2. What is the author’s main idea, theme, or message? Give an example from the book that would indicate the main idea or theme.
3. Complete the following: this book made me realize that_____
4. The most memorable line in the book is _____ because_____
5. (Name of Character) reminds me of (name of a person, living or dead, fictional or non –fictional) because_____

(Continues on next page...8th Grade Social Studies Reading Assignment)

EIGHTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES READING ASSIGNMENT

In addition, students entering eighth grade social studies in the fall are required to read *Runs with Horses*, Burks. As a member of the last band of Apaches to resist capture by the U.S. government, sixteen-year-old Runs with Horses struggles to honor his training as a warrior in the face of the historical realities of 1886.

A review of *Runs with Horses* is also required. It should include four paragraphs: 1) a brief summary, 2) what you feel the message is 3) what the book made me realize, and 4) the main character reminds me of _____ because_____. This review is to be sent to:

Mrs. Youngblood
512 SW Ashton Drive
Lee's Summit, Missouri
64063

THE DUE DATE FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT IS ALSO JULY 15.