

Friends Academy  
2018 Middle School Summer Reading List  
for students entering  
**8th Grade**

**Challenge One**

Students entering eighth grade are required to read the following:

Staples, Suzanne. *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*.

Life is both sweet and cruel to strong-willed young Shabanu, whose home is the windswept Cholistan Desert of Pakistan. The second daughter in a family with no sons, she's been allowed freedoms forbidden to most Muslim girls. But when a tragic encounter with a wealthy and powerful landowner ruins the marriage plans of her older sister, Shabanu is called upon to sacrifice everything she's dreamed of. Should she do what is necessary to uphold her family's honor—or listen to the stirrings of her own heart?

**Challenge Two**

In addition to Challenge One, students entering eighth grade are required to read any two of the following:

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*.

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

From acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson comes this compelling, impeccably researched novel that shows the lengths we can go to cast off our chains, both physical and spiritual.

Butler, Octavia. *Kindred*.

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

Carbone, Elisa. *The Pack*.

Becky is convinced that Akhil Vyas is the weirdest person on earth when he shows up in her English class. He refuses to sit in chairs, stares at her with spooky eyes, and has scar-covered skin. But soon Becky's revulsion turns to fascination. The National Institutes of Health is studying Akhil, but he won't say why—until something happens that makes him swear Becky and her friend Omar to secrecy. Suddenly Becky isn't sure what's more shocking—Akhil's secret, or the chilling reason why he must reveal it. Elisa Carbone weaves a tale of intrigue that will enthrall any reader.

Carbone, Elisa. *Storm Warriors*.

Driven from his home by the Ku Klux Klan and still reeling from the death of his mother, Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to the desolate Pea Island on the Outer Banks of North Carolina to start a new life. Fortunately, life on Pea Island at the end of the 19th century is far from quiet. The other island residents include the surfmen—the African American crew of the nearby U.S. Life-Saving Station—and soon Nathan is lending an extra hand to these men as they rescue sailors from sinking ships. Working and learning alongside the courageous surfmen, Nathan begins to dream of becoming one himself. But the reality of post-Civil War racism starts to show itself as he gradually realizes the futility of his dream. And then another dream begins to take shape, one that Nathan refuses to let anyone take from him.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*.

Luther T. Farrell tries to break out of his life in Flint, MI in order to go to Harvard. Luther tries to tackle all the problems of other fifteen-year-olds, as well as put up with his tough mother, the Sarge.

Crutcher, Chris. *Ironman*.

Bo has been at war with his father for as long as he can remember. The rage he feels gives him the energy as a triathlete to press his body to the limit, but it also translates into angry outbursts toward his teachers.

Now dangerously close to expulsion from school, Bo has been assigned to Anger Management sessions with the school "truants." With an eclectic mix of hard-edged students, Bo may finally have to deal with his long-brewing hatred for his father -- before it eats away at him completely.

Dashner, James. The *Maze Runner* series.

Follow Mark, Trina, and Thomas as they struggle to solve the Maze and cross the Scorch, while having to rely on Gladers and fight off Cranks. If only they were so sure that they could trust Wicked as they mark their way through these trails.

Prequel: *Kill Order*

Book 1: *Maze Runner*

Book 2: *Scorch Trials*

Book 3: *Death Cure*

De La Pena, Matt. *The Living*.

Shy took the summer job to make some money. In a few months on a luxury cruise liner, he'll rake in the tips and be able to help his mom and sister out with the bills. And how bad can it be? Bikinis, free food, maybe even a girl or two—every cruise has different passengers, after all.

But everything changes when the Big One hits. Shy's only weeks out at sea when an earthquake more massive than ever before recorded hits California, and his life is forever changed.

Feinstein, John. Sports mysteries series.

In John Feinstein's series, sports and mystery are intertwined. Follow reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson as they go behind the scenes and cover stories about baseball, football, basketball, tennis and swimming.

*Change Up: Mystery at the World Series*

*Cover Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl*

*Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery*

*The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game*

*Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open*

*A Season on the Brink*

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*.

An African-American family moves into a house that once hid runaway slaves, and soon comes to believe that their new home is possessed by the spirit of a murdered abolitionist, Dies Drear.

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*.

This classic novel deals with the worlds of the greasers and socs (socialites) in 1960s America. Ponyboy is conflicted about right and wrong when his fellow greaser Johnny kills a soc.

Johnson, Angela. *First Part Last*.

Bobby is a 16-year-old father struggling to raise a child. In flashbacks, we see how Bobby gets to where he is today and how he deals with the stress and joy of being a father.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*.

2005 Newbery Medal winner. A Japanese family moves from Iowa to Georgia and must learn how to deal with the illness of a loved one as well as the curious stares from the community.

Murphy, Jim. *The Great Fire*.

1996 Newbery Honor Book. This nonfiction book tells the story behind Chicago's Great

Fire in 1871. It is told with a strong narrative and period illustrations.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!*

1997 Coretta Scott King Award winner. Greg "Slam" Harris is an excellent basketball player but will his off-the-court troubles catch up with him?

Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*.

2005 Printz Honor Book. In an alternate world, Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard a huge airship. Reminiscent of the adventure stories of Verne and Stevenson, Matt must investigate an old man's claims of seeing mysterious flying creatures.

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*.

In George Orwell's classic book, a farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals.

Patterson, James. *Maximum Ride* series.

In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"--Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel--are just like ordinary kids--only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...

Book 1: *The Angel Experiment*

Book 2: *School's Out*

Book 3: *Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports*

Book 4: *The Final Warning*

Book 5: *Max*

Book 6: *Fang*

Book 7: *Angel*

Book 8: *Nevermore*

Book 9: *Maximum Ride Forever*

Paulsen, Gary. *The Transall Saga*.

Thirteen-year-old Mark crosses into another world on a camping trip. He must learn how to survive in this new alien world.

Riordan, Rick. *The Heroes of Olympus* series.

In the brand-new series *The Heroes of Olympus* from the blockbuster best-selling author Rick Riordan, fans return to the world of Camp Half-Blood, where a new group of heroes will inherit a quest. But to survive the journey, they'll need the help of some familiar demigods.

Book 1: *The Lost Hero*

Book 2: *The Son of Neptune*

Book 2.5: *The Demigod Diaries*

Book 3: *The Mark of Athena*  
Book 4: *The House of Hades*  
Book 5: *The Blood of Olympus*

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *Notes from the Midnight Driver*.

Alex Gregory has made some bad decisions. After a drunk driving incident, he is sentenced to spend time in a retirement home with an old man with a mystery.

White, Robb. *Deathwatch*.

An exciting novel of suspense, based on a fight to the finish between an honest and courageous young man and a cynical business tycoon who believes that anything can be had for a price.

Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*.

1989 National Jewish Book Award Winner. Hannah is transported back to 1942 Poland during her modern-day Passover Seder. As she tries to figure out what has happened, Nazi soldiers begin to take everyone away. Hannah is the only one that knows what horrors are in store.