

Summer Reading for Grade 8
Language Arts, Social Studies and Religion

Language Arts

This year, the summer reading selection are works of historical fiction that focus on war time or the Great Depression. Please choose one novel from the list below and purchase it. You will be writing a brief summary of the novel. You should include information about the setting, characters, and themes (such as fear, belonging, family, courage, challenges and hope) as well as the plot and conflict of the story. You will be sharing these summaries in class and you will need to bring your book to school.

Out of the Dust, by Karen Hesse

The Wednesday Wars, by Gary D. Schmidt

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan

Shadow on the Mountain, by Margi Preus

Beyond Courage, by Doreen Rappaport

Social Studies

Read the novel, **The Last Lecture**, by Randy Pausch. Be prepared to discuss the novel during the first week of school.

Religion

Read the novel, **Seedfolks**, by Paul Fleischman. Then reflect on the following questions: What makes a community? How do we come to appreciate people through their differences?