

MENLO SCHOOL

2006 Summer Reading List for Eighth Grade

Before school begins in late August, all in-coming eighth graders should have read any **three** of the recommended books from the list below. After finishing the reading, all students should choose one of the books he or she read to complete the writing assignment. We will discuss the books during the first week of class.

We hope that the Menlo summer reading books will be fun to read and will inspire further reading adventures. Students should pick books that they have not already read. If passages or words are confusing or difficult, students should mark those pages and bring their questions to class.

For your convenience, all the summer reading books are available online at Varsitybooks.com.

WRITING TOPIC: Choose one of the books you read from the list below. In **two typed pages**, write a creative scene in which two or three of the main characters next meet up again: the first chapter from a “sequel” to the book. Write from the point of view of one of the main characters in that book, and include description and dialogue: think about the creative writing techniques you learned in seventh grade. Give your “chapter” an interesting title. We will share these creative scenes in Authors’ Tables on the first day of school.

CHOOSE ANY THREE OF THESE THIRTEEN SUMMER READING NOVELS:

Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglass Adams
Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
Rules of the Road, by Joan Bauer
Tangerine, by Edward Bloor
Ender’s Game, by Orson Scott Card
Gifted Hands, by Ben Carson
Murder on the Orient Express, by Agatha Christie
Whirligig, by Paul Fleischman
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by Mark Haddon
Into Thin Air, by Jon Krakauer
The Usual Rules, by Joyce Maynard
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, by Betty Smith

Note: If you would like a critical review or a synopsis of these books, try the American Library Association’s web site. The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and *Booklist* divisions of the web site are especially useful.