

Great Books for 8th Graders

Akron-Summit County Public Library

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. **Does My Head Look Big in This?**, 2007. TEEN

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.

Alexander, Kwame. **The Crossover**, 2014. JFIC

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Speak**, 1999. TEEN

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Bayron, Kalynn. **Cinderella is Dead**, 2020. TEEN

Sophia, who has no interest in boys, teams up with an unlikely accomplice to overthrow the patriarchy in the former kingdom of Cinderella, 200 years after Cinderella found her prince.

Cabot, Meg. **The Princess Diaries**, 2000. TEEN

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne.

Donnelly, Jennifer. **Poisoned**, 2020. TEEN

In this adaptation of the fairy tale Snow White, the huntsman follows the queen's order to kill Sophie, but the princess is brought back to life by the seven men of the woods, who, along with other brave friends, help Sophie overcome the story's true villain and reclaim her throne. d, 2020. TEEN

Forna, Namina. **The Gilded Ones**, 2021. TEEN

Deka, 16, lives in fear of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she is pure enough to become a member of her village. When her blood runs gold – the color of impurity – Deka is given a choice: stay in the village and submit to death, or leave to fight in an army of girls with rare gifts.

Jaigirdar, Adiba. **The Henna Wars**, 2020. TEEN

During a school competition inviting students to create their own businesses, Flávia and Nishat both create their own henna businesses. In a fight to prove who is best, their lives become entangled and romance blooms.

Johnson, Maureen. **Truly Devious**, 2018. TEEN

Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, the location of an infamous double kidnapping and murder by “Truly Devious.” But the past has crawled out of its grave: Truly Devious makes a surprise return, and death revisits Ellingham Academy.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Fallen Angels**, 1988. TEEN

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

Reynolds, Jason. **Long Way Down**, 2017. TEEN

As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.

Shusterman, Neal. **Scythe**, 2016. TEEN

In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ('gleaned') by professional reapers ('scythes'). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn't.

Smith, Jennifer E. **Field Notes on Love**, 2019. TEEN

When Hugo's girlfriend dumps him, leaving him with non-refundable train tickets in her name, Hugo posts an ad for someone with the same name to take her place so he can still go on his cross-country adventure.

Steinkellner, Emma. **The Okay Witch**, 2019. TEENGN

Thirteen-year-old Moth Hush loves all things witchy. But she's about to discover that witches aren't just the stuff of movies, books, and spooky stories. When some eighth-grade bullies try to ruin her Halloween, something really strange happens.

Tamaki, Mariko. **This One Summer**, 2014. TEENGN

Rose has been going to Awago Beach since she was a little girl, and so has her friend Windy. But this summer is different. Rose's mom and dad won't stop fighting, and Rose and Windy have gotten tangled up in a tragedy-in-the-making.

Thakrar, Shveta. **Star Daughter**, 2020. TEEN

The daughter of a star and a mortal, Sheetal is used to keeping secrets. Pretending to be "normal." But when an accidental flare of her starfire puts her human father in the hospital, Sheetal needs a full star's help to heal him. Sheetal's quest to save her father will take her to a celestial court where she must take the stage as her family's champion --and win, or risk never returning to Earth at all.

Westerfeld, Scott. **Leviathan**, 2009. TEEN

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

Williams, Lily. **Go With the Flow**, 2020. TEENGN

Sophomores Abby, Brit, Christine, and Sasha are fed up. Hazelton High never has enough tampons. Or pads. Or adults who will listen. They band together to make a change.