

# 8th Grade Summer Reading List

Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders,

Please choose a book below. Read it and complete the Book Trailer Project below. This is your chance to show me your creative side. Choose wisely and Happy Reading!! (Note: if you do not have access to the internet to do the book trailer, complete the Book Cover Project.)

~ Ms. Russo ☺

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>GENRE</u>	<u>SYNOPSIS</u>	<u>READING DIFFICULTY</u>
Jacob Have I Loved	Katherine Paterson	Angst	<i>Sara Louise Bradshaw is sick and tired of her beautiful twin Caroline. Ever since they were born, Caroline has been the pretty one, the talented one, the better sister. Even now, Caroline seems to take everything: Louise's friends, their parents' love, her dreams for the future. For once in her life, Louise wants to be the special one. But in order to do that, she must first figure out who she is . . . and find a way to make a place for herself outside her sister's shadow.</i>	MEDIUM
Stupid Fast	Geoff Herback	Angst	<i>My name is Felton Reinstein, which is not a fast name. But last November, my voice finally dropped and I grew all this hair and then I got stupid fast. Now they want me, the guy they used to call Squirrel Nut, to try out for the football team. With the jocks. But will that fix my mom? Make my brother stop dressing like a pirate? Most important, will it get me girls-especially Aleah?</i>	HARD
That was Then, This is now	S. E. Hinton	Angst	<i>Ever since Mark's parents died, he has been living with Bryon. The boys are more like brothers than mere friends. They've been inseparable--until recently. Something seems to be changing between them, and Bryon can't figure it out. Is it Cathy, Bryon's new girlfriend? Is Mark jealous? Bryon is also tired of the street fighting, but Mark seems unable to quit. And where is Mark getting all of that money?</i>	MEDIUM
Trash	Andy Mulligan	Adventure	<i>A group of 14-year-old "dump site" boys, who make their living picking up garbage in an unnamed Third World country, find something interesting that gets them into deep trouble.</i>	HARD

Miss Perergrine's Home for Peculiar Children	Ransom Riggs	Adventure	<i>As a kid, Jacob formed a special bond with his grandfather over his bizarre tales and photos of levitating girls and invisible boys. Now at 16, he is reeling from the old man's unexpected death. Then Jacob is given a mysterious letter that propels him on a journey to the remote Welsh island where his grandfather grew up. There, he finds the children from the photographs--alive and well--despite the islanders' assertion that all were killed decades ago. As Jacob begins to unravel more about his grandfather's childhood, he suspects he is being trailed by a monster only he can see.</i>	MEDIUM
The 5 <sup>th</sup> Wave	Rick Yancy	Dystopia	<i>Cassie survives the first four waves of the alien invasion and risks everything to find and rescue her little brother from becoming an instrument in the 5<sup>th</sup> wave.</i>	HARD
Eye of Minds	James Dashner	Dystopia	<i>Michael is a gamer. And like most gamers, he almost spends more time on the VirtNet than in the actual world. The VirtNet offers total mind and body immersion, and the more hacking skills you have, the more fun. Why bother following the rules when most of them are dumb, anyway? But some rules were made for a reason. The government knows that to catch a hacker, you need a hacker. And they've been watching Michael.</i>	HARD
Old Yeller	Fred Gipson	Classic	<i>Young Travis Coates is left to take care of the family ranch with his mother and younger brother while his father goes off on a cattle drive in the 1860's. When a yellow mongrel comes for an uninvited stay with the family, Travis reluctantly adopts the dog. After a series of scrapes involving raccoons, snakes, bears and all manner of animals, Travis grows to love and respect Old Yeller, who comes to have a profound effect on the boy's life.</i>	EASY
The Secret Garden	Francis H Burnett	Classic	<i>Mary, a lonely orphaned girl sent to a Yorkshire mansion at the edge of a vast lonely moor. At first, she is frightened by this gloomy place until she meets a local boy, Dickon, who's earned the trust of the moor's wild animals, the invalid Colin, an unhappy boy terrified of life, and a mysterious, abandoned garden...</i>	MEDIUM
Beholding Bee	Kimberly Fusco	Historical Fiction	<i>With the background of WWII, eleven year old Bee struggles to find a place to belong as she hides the wine colored birthmark on her face.</i>	EASY

Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	Classic	<i>Billy, Old Dan and Little Ann -- a Boy and His Two Dogs...A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn, Little Ann had the brains -- and Billy had the will to train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. And close by was the strange and wonderful power that's only found.</i>	EASY
The Actual and Truthful Adventure of Becky Thatcher	Jessica Lawson	Historical Fiction	<i>In 1860, eleven-year-old Becky Thatcher is the new girl in town, determined to have adventures like she promised her brother Jon before he died. With her Mama frozen in grief and her Daddy busy as town judge, Becky spends much of her time on her own, getting into mischief. Before long, she joins the boys at school in a bet to steal from the Widow Douglas, and Becky convinces her new best friend, Amy Lawrence, to join her.</i>	EASY
The Cay	Theodore Taylor	Historical Fiction	<i>When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.</i>	MEDIUM
Middle School, The Worst years of my Life	James Patterson	Humor	<i>It's Rafe Khatchadorian's first day at Hills Village Middle School, and it's shaping up to be the worst year ever. He has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix, but luckily he's got an ace plan for the best year ever--if only he can pull it off. With his best friend Leonardo the Silent awarding him points, Rafe tries to break every rule in his school's oppressive Code of Conduct But not everyone thinks Rafe's plan is a good idea, especially not the teachers, parents, and bullies who keep getting in his way. Will Rafe decide that winning is the only thing that matters? Are things about to go from magic to tragic</i>	MEDIUM
New Kid	Tim Green	Sports	<i>12 year old Tommy, now known as Brock Nickerson, is starting life over again. Trying to fit in he takes a dare to throw a rock through a coach's window. Caught, Coach (admiring Brock's throwing arm) offers a ticket out of trouble. He wants Brock to join the travel team.</i>	EASY

## BOOK TRAILER PROJECT

# How to Make Your Own Book Trailer (for Kids)



Making a **book trailer** is a fun way to incorporate reading with technology and script writing in a response to reading.

Like a movie trailer, book trailers give the audience enough juicy information to make them really, really want to read the book. (Hopefully.) Your job as movie creator is to get your audience of other kids to want to READ the book you read! Are you ready?

Before you start, **watch a variety of book trailers**. Research the possibilities. See what ideas you like in other trailers and want to try in your own. Take notes.

Here are some options to get you started with your research:

[Lost and Found Cat](#)

[Magic Tree House: The Night of the New Magicians](#)

[Bud, Not Buddy](#)

[I Survived the Great Chicago Fire](#)

[Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#)

[All Four Stars](#)

[The Graveyard Book](#)

## How to Make Your Own Book Trailer (for Kids)

### 1. PICK A BOOK.

The first step, of course, is to select and read the chapter book for your book trailer.

### 2. WRITE THE SCRIPT.

After you finish reading, it's time to write a storyboard (or script) of how the trailer will go. (Download a storyboard template [here](#).)

There are TWO PARTS to writing a storyboard — **the visuals**, what you'll show on the movie screen and **the audio**, what narration (and music) will be happening with those visuals.

So on your storyboard, plan out each scene with the script of what will be shown visually as well as you'll narrate or have written in text on screen. Think in sequential order. Where will you start? What will you tell next? How do you want your mini-movie to end? Don't forget to tell viewers the name of the book and the author.

-----*(You won't want to give away the ending but you do want to drop hints. Often, asking questions is a way to give a good hint. Something like — how will the kids survive? or will they ever see home again?)*

### 3. MAKE THE MOVIE.

When you're done writing, pick one of the movie making programs or apps listed below.

Use your storyboard as a guide and start making the movie. Add in the visuals first with photos, drawings, or video clips.

The next step is to add in text, transitions, titles, and audio. (If you're narrating, make sure you speak loudly and slowly. If you need background music, check out this list of [royalty free songs](#).)

After you make your movie, share it with your audience. Upload to [YouTube](#), SchoolTube, or Vimeo. (Sometimes you will have to export your movie to a different format. Ask an adult for help with this step.)

## Book Trailer Programs and Apps

Here are a list of online sites, programs, and apps that kids can use to make their own book trailers.

[Animoto](#)

[Aurasma](#) (program + app)

[Google Slides](#) FREE

[Green Screen](#) (app)

[iMovie](#) (program + app)

[Kid Pix](#) (program + app)

[Movie Maker](#) (Windows)

[Puppet Pals](#) (app) FREE

[Shadow Puppet Edu](#) (app) FREE

[Sock Puppets](#) (app) FREE

[Spark Video](#) FREE

[Stop Motion Studio](#) FREE

[TeleStory](#) (app) FREE

[WeVideo](#)

# BOOK FOLDERS PROJECT

**WHAT:** Using a standard file folder, you will create a tool to help other readers learn about your book and its author.

**MATERIALS:** file folder, colored paper, markers, stickers, scissors, glue, etc. You can use publisher or similar program as well.

## PARTS OF THE PROJECT:

### **1. Front of the folder:**

- a. Cover of the book.
- b. It will look best if you matt it on another piece of paper before gluing it to your folder. Don't make it too small.

### **2. Inside left:**

- a. Information about the author.
- b. A little bit about his/her career and background. An interesting interview question is good. We do not need everything they ever did.
- c. A small picture of the author. (Only one)
- d. If the book is part of a series, include smaller pictures of the covers of the other books in the series. If they have a different famous book, include a picture of the cover.
- e. If they have an author website, give the address. Include citations for your source. (Sometimes if there is a website for the book/series you can find good pictures, games, information for the author or book. )

### **3. Inside right:**

- a. See if there is an excerpt from the book online. Newer books often have the first chapter available online. If it is there, copy & past enough of the first chapter for it to fit 1 page. (Print it in an easy to read font.)
- b. It should fit on the right side of the file folder and not hang off.
- c. If your book is not online, photocopy the first two pages of the book and cut & paste the pages to fit on the right side of the folder. Be neat!

### **4. Back of the folder: Use several possibilities for the back of the cover.**

- a. Write a review of the book. Make sure it is at least 7 sentences. Do not just summarize the book, tell what you thought of the book and why.
- b. Another choice is create several bullet points about the book.
- c. You can also find other people who have read the book and get a quote from them about what they liked about the book. Put the quote on the page and take a picture of the reader to go with the quote.
- d. Go to a website like Amazon.com and find a professional review of the book. Print it out and paste it below your review.