

**Seabury Hall Middle School**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List**  
(If you're entering 8<sup>th</sup> Grade please complete the following.)

Students who are life-long readers are more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively. All eighth graders are required to read at least one book on this list prior to the first day of school and two books of their choice, from their own reading level. The other two books may come from this list, but that is not a requirement. I have included a variety of authors to appeal to a broad spectrum of student interests. Please choose novels that you have never read before.

The American Library Association (ALA), and College Board (CB) recommend these titles. Students need to complete the accompanying questionnaire and have it to turn in on the first day of class in the fall. **I suggest that parents and students together select thoughtfully and carefully from the list.**

**The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dreams** – Paulo Coelho: Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, leaves Spain to follow his dreams. Along the way, Santiago meets many spiritual messengers who embolden him to stay true to his dreams. (176 pages)

**Autobiography of My Dead Brother** – Walter Dean Myers: It's hard to go wrong with a book by Walter Dean Myers, who wrote *Monster* and other popular young adult fiction. In this outing, Myers tackles the subject of drive-by shootings and their aftermath. The novel starts with the funeral of a Harlem boy, whose best friend copes with his grief by drawing in his sketchbook and creating cartoon strips. An unusual plus for this book is the dramatic illustrations by the author's son, Christopher Myers. (224 pages)

**Chinese Cinderella: The Story of an Unwanted Daughter** – Yen Mah: Yen Mah was only an infant when her father remarried after her mother's death. Cruelly neglected, she manages to find success despite her difficult life. (224 pages)

**Daughter of Venice** – Donna Jo Napoli: Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donna, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice and then must confront the repercussions of her actions. (271 pages)

**Death Be Not Proud** – John J. Gunther: A father tells the story about the days leading up to his son's death from cancer. (224 pages)

**Ender's Game** – Orson Scott Card: A young boy is trained to lead the defense against a hostile alien race's next attack. (368 pages)

**Feed** – M. T. Anderson: Teen narrator Titus never questions his world, in which parents select their babies' attributes in the conceptionarium, corporations dominate the information stream, and kids learn to employ the feed more efficiently in school. (320 pages)

**Into Thin Air** – John Krakauer: This is a riveting first -hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. (368 pages)

**Inventing Elliot** – Graham Gardner: A fourteen-year -old bullying victim transfers to a new school and tries to avoid trouble by developing a low-key, cooler persona. Ironically, he becomes part of a group called the Guardians, who model themselves on the totalitarian leaders in George Orwell's 1984. (181 pages)

**Stargirl** – Jerry Spinelli: A new 10<sup>th</sup> grade student becomes incredibly popular. Will her status last as the year continues? (208 pages)

**The Story of My Life** – Helen Keller: Helen was an active and effective suffragist, pacifist, and lecturer in a time when few women attended college and the disabled were often relegated to the background. (240 pages)

**Troy** – Adele Geras: At the end of the Trojan War, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, turns her attention to two sisters: Marpessa and Xanthe. (376 pages)