

FCMS Summer Reading List for Upcoming 7th & 8th Graders



Title of Book	Author's Name	Description	Grade	Lexile Score
Code Orange	Caroline Cooney	Realistic Fiction: (2005) While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City. 200 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	850
Bucking the Sarge	Christopher Paul Curtis	Realistic Fiction (2004): Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher. 259 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	1000
Life As We Knew It	Susan Beth Pfeffer	Science Fiction: (2006) Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. 347 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	770
The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins	Science Fiction: (2008) Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. 374 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	810
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	Fantasy Fiction: (2008) The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. 312 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	820
The Fire Within	Chris D'Lacey	Fantasy Fiction (2001) College student David Rain rents a room in an unusual boardinghouse full of clay dragons, not realizing that they, along with some lively squirrels, will help jumpstart his writing career. 340 pgs	7 th & 8 th grade	630
The Calder Game	Blue Balliett	Mystery Fiction (2004): When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him. 379 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	830
Uprising	Margaret Peterson Haddix	Historical Fiction (2007): In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old. Includes historical notes. 346 pgs	7 th & 8 th grade	790
No Excuses!	Kyle Maynard	Biography: (2005) Presents the author's firsthand account of his experiences growing up as a congenital amputee, providing information on how he learned to eat, type, write, and live without hands, ultimately becoming a successful athlete and champion wrestler in Georgia. 243 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	Not leveled
Within Reach: My Everest Story	Mark Pfetzer	Biography: (1998)The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa, and Asia, with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest. 224 pgs.	7 th & 8 th grade	970