Dear Students and Families,

Summer reading helps build fluency, background knowledge, and vocabulary. Summer break often means a break from reading, which can seriously hamper achievement in the classroom. There’s a solid link between the amount of independent reading children do and their success in school. Research shows that kids who never crack open a book during the summer often fall behind in reading – the notorious “summer slide” – while kids who do read, maintain or improve their learning skills.

The Scoop for 8th Grade:

Read 3 books at your appropriate reading level – Lexile range.

- One of the books must be a book from the current Grades 6-8 Sunshine State Book list.
- One must be a dystopian novel chosen from the list provided below.
- One is free choice.

Due Dates:

- **Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015**: Work turned in by this date is eligible for extra credit.
- **Friday, Aug. 21, 2015**: Due date for Summer Reading work.
- **Friday, Aug. 29, 2015**: Summer Reading work turned in by 4 p.m. is eligible for partial credit, per teacher discretion.

Points:

- **Trivia Questions**: For the Sunshine State Book, in addition to the two reading response questions, students will create 5 trivia questions and answers. Each question/answer combination is worth up to 2 points, for a total of 10 points.
- **Reading Response Questions**: For each book read, students will answer two reading response questions. Each question is worth up to 5 points, for a total of 30 points.

**PART 1: Sunshine State Book Trivia (Total: 10 pts.)**

For your Sunshine State book, in addition to answering two reading response questions, you will create 5 trivia questions with answers from the book. Type or neatly write them on separate paper and include:

- Name of book and author at top of page.
- Five questions with answers and page number where each is found.
- Choose trivia from the beginning, middle, and end of the book.

**Example:**

**Book:** Ghost of Graylock  **Author:** Dan Poblocki

**Q.** For scary movie night, Sarah and Gabby chose which movie to watch?

**A.** They chose “Whatever Happened to Baby Jane,” an old black and white movie starring Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. (pg. 55)
Part 2: The Reading Response (Total: 30 pts.) You must answer two of the following questions for each book, for a total of six responses. Please include the question number in your answers. Each answer must contain at least two specific, quoted details from the novel – with page numbers – that support your response. A high-quality response with text evidence will be at least 5 sentences long. Responses may be neatly handwritten or typed on a computer. Note: If a question doesn’t apply to your book, don’t use it. For example, don’t choose No. 10 if you have no unanswered questions.

QUESTIONS for FICTION BOOKS

1. If you could be related to a character, who would it be and why?
2. Compare your book to another by the same author or of the same genre. What is similar? Different?
4. If one (or more) of the characters made a choice that had moral implications, would you have made the same decision? Why? Why not?
5. Why did the author choose the title? How does it fit the book? What title would YOU have chosen?
6. If this book was to be made into a movie, choose five main scenes and why you chose them.
7. What was unique about the setting of the book and how did it enhance or take away from the story?
8. What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the novel? What do you think he or she is trying to get across to the reader?
9. How do characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger the changes?
10. What unanswered, unresolved questions still remain and how would you answer them in a sequel?
11. What motivates the actions of a given character? To what degree does the character’s past play a role in her present actions? Are those actions justified or ethical?
12. What is the central conflict of the plot? Is the conflict internal (a psychological conflict)? Or is it external? Character vs. character? Character vs. society? Character vs. nature? How did the conflict resolve?
13. Name three figurative language devices (personification, metaphor, imagery, etc.) and cite examples from your novel. Include the page numbers.
14. Choose a color for this book and explain why it fits the story.
15. Choose a character and decide on two appropriate birthday presents for him/her and tell why.

QUESTIONS for NON-FICTION BOOKS or INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

1. What are five important facts you learned from reading this book? Explain why you consider them important.
2. What parts of this book seem most/least believable? Why?
3. What confuses you in this book? Give at least two examples and explain your confusion.
4. How do statistics and data support the author’s perspective? Give at least two examples and explain.
5. What new information did you learn? How did this new information change your way of thinking?
6. What words, phrases, statements does the author use that caught your attention? Why? How did they make you feel? What did they make you think?
7. Did the author weave opinion and fact statements into the book? Find two examples of each.
8. Were there any photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, or diagrams that were important? Select three and describe what you learned from them and explain why you believe each one was important. Be sure to list the page numbers.
9. Did the reading leave you with unanswered questions? What are these? List three or more. Explain why these questions are important to you.
**Maitland Middle Summer Reading Book Lists**

**Sunshine State Young Reader Award Books 2015-2016**

- **Counting by 7s** by Holly Goldberg Sloan (770L). In the tradition of *Out of My Mind* and *Wonder*, this is an intensely moving novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

- **The Eighth Day**, by Dianne K. Salerni (730L). In this riveting fantasy adventure, thirteen-year-old Jax Aubrey discovers a secret Eighth Day with roots tracing back to Arthurian legend. Fans of Percy Jackson will devour this first book in a new series that combines exciting magic and pulse-pounding suspense.

- **Eye of the Storm**, by Kate Messner. In the not-too-distant future, huge tornadoes and monster storms are a part of everyday life. Jaden Meggs meets Alex, a boy from a nearby storm-ravaged farm, and together they discover a horrible truth about her dad's weather research. As a massive tornado approaches, Jaden must trust her knowledge, confront her dad and save everyone.

- **Jack Strong Takes a Stand**, by Tommy Greenwald. (640L) Jack Strong’s parents have overscheduled his week with every extracurricular activity under the sun: tennis, baseball, cello, karate, tutoring, and Chinese language lessons—all on top of regular homework. And so, he stages a sit-in on his couch and refuses to get up until his parents let him quit some of the extracurriculars.

- **Jungle of Bones**, by Ben Mikaelson.(770L). After getting caught on a late-night joyride in a stolen car, Dylan is shipped off to live with his ex-Marine uncle for the summer in the steamy jungles of Papua New Guinea to hunt for a lost WWII fighter plane.

- **The Night Gardener**, by Jonathan Auxier. (690L) Two abandoned Irish siblings travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house. But the house and its inhabitants are not quite what they seem.

- **Project Jackalope**, by Emily Ecton (650L). In a hilarious and suspenseful adventure, Jeremy must find a way to protect his neighbor’s experimental creature—a jackalope with killer antlers—from government agents.

- **The Secret of Rover**, by Rachel Wildavsky (690L). *The Secret of Rover* follows the clever and resourceful twins Katie and David as they race across country in their attempt to outwit an international team of insurgents who hold their parents and baby sister captive in a foreign land.

- **Seeing Red**, by Kathryn Erskine (750L). National Book Award winner Kathryn Erskine delivers a powerful story of family, friendship, and race relations in the South. Life will never be the same for Red Porter. He’s a kid growing up around black car grease, white fence paint, and the backward attitudes of the folks who live in his hometown, Rocky Gap, Virginia.

- **Skink – No Surrender**, by Carl Hiassen. When your cousin goes missing under suspicious circumstances, who do you call? There’s only one man for the job: a half-crazed, half-feral, one-eyed ex-governor named Skink.

- **Stung**, by Bethany Wiggins. Fiona doesn’t remember going to sleep. But when she opens her eyes, she discovers her entire world has been altered. Even stranger is the tattoo on her right wrist, the mark of a vaccination that turned people into ferocious, deadly beasts.

- **Tesla’s Attic**, by Neal Shusterman. The attic in Nick’s new house is a strange magnetic vortex, which attracts all sorts of trouble. It’s as if the attic itself has an intelligence . . . and a purpose. Fans of intrigue, humor, and nonstop action are guaranteed a read unlike any other.

- **The Testing**, by Joelle Charbonneau. It’s graduation day for sixteen-year-old Malencia Vale, and she is chosen for *The Testing*, a program that selects the best and brightest new graduates to become possible leaders of the slowly revitalizing post-war civilization. She bravely heads off to Tosu City, far away from friends and family, perhaps forever. Danger, romance—and sheer terror—await.

- **This Journal Belongs to Ratchet**, by Nancy J. Cavanaugh (830L). This Florida State Book Award gold medal winner is a heartfelt story about an unconventional girl’s quest to make a friend, save a park, and find her own definition of normal.

- **Twerp**, by Mark Goldblatt (730L). This award-winning book has been called “reminiscent of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.” Julian Twerski isn’t a bully. He’s just made a big mistake. So when he returns to school after a suspension, his English teacher offers him a deal: if he keeps a journal and writes about the terrible incident that got him and his friends suspended, he can get out of writing a report on Shakespeare.

---

**Soak up a good book this summer!**
8th Grade Dystopian Books – Choose 1 From this List

- **1984** by George Orwell (1090 Lexile, 328 pages). Written in 1948, 1984 presents a startling and haunting vision of the world so powerful it is convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the power of this novel, its hold on the imaginations of multiple generations of readers, or the resiliency of its admonitions.

- **The Adoration of Jenna Fox** by Mary E. Pearson (570L, 288 p.). Jenna Fox wakes from a coma more than a year after having an "accident." With no memory, she slowly learns to function physically, but she can't seem to connect emotionally. Written in a beautiful symphony of revealed memories, Jenna begins to recognize that a secret is being kept from her and something complex and dangerous is going on.

- **Ashes** by Isa J. Bick (730L, 496 p.). While Alex hiked into the woods, an electromagnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions. Now desperate to find out what happened after the pulse crushes her to the ground, Alex meets up with Tom—a young soldier—and Ellie, a girl whose grandfather was killed by the pulse. Survival is now a question of who can be trusted and who is no longer human.

- **Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley (870L, 288 p.). “Community, Identity, Stability” is the motto of Aldous Huxley's utopian World State. Here everyone consumes daily grams of soma, to fight depression, babies are born in laboratories. Though there is no violence and everyone is provided for, Bernard Marx feels something is missing. Huxley foreshadowed many of the practices and gadgets we take for granted today.

- **The Cure** by Stephanie Erickson (258 p.). “One life will make the difference.” Macey Holsinger has heard that promise for as long as she can remember. But it hasn’t saved anyone yet, not even her little brother. Little is known about the disease, except that it’s a rapid and absolute killer. Why is the quest for a cure reason enough to ban things like flags and freedom of expression? In the end, how much will the cure cost?

- **Delirium** by Lauren Oliver (760L, 480 p.). It’s the near future, a time when love has long since been identified as a disease, and 17-year-old Lena is 95 days away from the operation that everyone gets to cure themselves. Enter Alex, a rakish daredevil who, as it turns out, is one of the Invalids—a tribe of uncured outlaws. With the clock ticking down, Lena is drawn into Alex’s world, one of passion and freedom.

- **The Drowned Cities** by Paolo Bacigalupi (690L, 464 p.). In a dark, future America, Mahlia and Mouse have managed to leave behind the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities by escaping into the jungle outskirts. But when they discover a wounded half-man who is being hunted by a vengeful band of soldiers, their fragile existence quickly collapses. One is taken prisoner and the other is faced with an impossible decision: Risk everything to save a friend, or flee to a place that holds the possibility of freedom.

- **The House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer (660L, 400 p.). Readers will be hooked from the first page of this award-winning book in which a scientist brings to life one of 36 tiny cells, frozen more than 100 years ago. The result is Matt, a clone of El Patron, a powerful drug lord. El Patron is ruler of Opium, a country that lies between the United States and Mexico. With smooth pacing that steadily gathers momentum, Matt learns what being a clone of one of the most powerful and feared men on earth entails.

- **Knife of Never Letting Go** by Patrick Ness (860L, 496 p.). Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks. Todd is just a month away from becoming a man, but he knows that the town is hiding something from him — something so awful Todd is forced to flee with only his dog. With hostile men in pursuit, the two stumble upon a strange and eerily silent creature: a girl. Readers are in for a white-knuckle journey.

- **Little Brother** by Cory Doctorow (900L; 416 p.). While skipping school, 17-year-old techno-geek Markus is caught near the site of a terrorist attack on San Francisco and held by the Department of Homeland Security for six days of intensive interrogation. After his release, he vows to use his skills to fight back against an increasingly frightening system of surveillance. Set in the near future, readers will delight in the details of how Markus attempts to stage a techno-revolution.

- **Pure** by Julianna Baggott (480 p.). Pressia sleeps in a cabinet behind the rubble of a barbershop with her grandfather. She barely remembers the Detonnations or much about life during the Before. And now, at an age when everyone is required to become a soldier or, worse, a live target, Pressia is on the run. Partridge is a Pure – one who escaped the apocalypse unmarked. Yet Partridge feels isolated and lonely. So when a slipped phrase suggests his mother might still be alive, Partridge risks his life to find her.

- **Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline (990L, 384 p.). In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he’s jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue to solving the puzzle, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill. If Wade’s going to survive, he’ll have to win.

- **Shade’s Children** by Garth Nix (980L, 368 p.) In the brutal world of Shade’s Children, your 14th birthday is your last. Malevolent Overlords rule the earth, directing hideous, humanoid creatures to harvest the brains and muscles of teens for use in engineering foul beasts to fight senseless wars. Young Gold-Eye escapes this horrific fate, rescued by other refugees, but life is far from safe.

- **Starters** by Lissa Price (550L, 384 p.). Callie lost her parents when the Spore Wars wiped out everyone between the ages of 20 and 60. She and her little brother, Tyler, go on the run, living as squatters and fighting off renegades who would kill them for a cookie.

- **Unwind** by Neal Shusterman (740L, 352 p.). A twisted and futuristic New York Times bestselling novel about a future where teens between the age of 13 – 18 may be “unwound.” Unwinding ensures that the child’s life doesn’t “technically” end by transplanting all the organs in the child’s body to various recipients. Troublesome or unwanted teens are able to be unwound.

- **Z for Zachariah** by Robert O’Brien (820L, 240 p.). Ann Burden is sixteen years old and completely alone. The world as she once knew it is gone, ravaged by a nuclear war that has taken everyone from her. For the past year, she has lived in a remote valley with no evidence of any other survivors. But someone else is still alive and making his way toward the valley.