

8th Grade Summer Reading Suggestions

Perfect by Friend, Natasha.

Following the death of her father, a thirteen-year-old uses bulimia as a way to avoid her mother's and ten-year-old sister's grief, as well as her own.

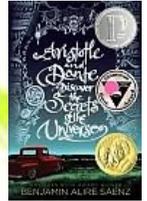


Crank by Hopkins, Ellen.

Kristina Georgia Snow's life is turned upside-down when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank", becomes addicted, and is led down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life.



Aristotle and Dante by Saenz
Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.



Waiting by Williams, Carol Lynch

Growing up, London and Zach were as close as could be. And then Zach dies, and the family is gutted. London's father is distant. Her mother won't speak. The days are filled with what-ifs and whispers: Was it London's fault?



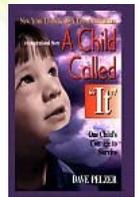
Temple Grandin by Montgomery, Sy.

Examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, whose childhood diagnosis of autism and love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry.



A Child Called It by Pelzer, David.

David Pelzer, victim of one of the worst child abuse cases in the history of California, tells the story of how he survived his mother's brutality and triumphed over his past.



The Running Dream by Van Draanen, Wendelin.

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.



Positive by Rawl, Paige.

A teenager's memoir of the experiences of bullying, being HIV positive and surviving the experiences to become a force for positive change in this world.



The Fall by Preller, James.

(Author of Bystander)
In writing in his journal about middle school classmate Morgan Mallen's suicide from bullying, Sam explores whether he was a friend, or one of the bullies who ignored her at school and tormented her online.



Backlash by Littman, Sarah.

When Christian, a boy she knows only through Facebook, posts a lot of nasty comments on her page, fifteen-year-old Lara tries to kill herself—but that is only the beginning of the backlash for her sister, Sydney; her former friend Bree; and her classmates.



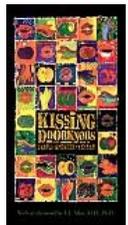
Med Head Patterson, James.

Tells the true story of Cory Friedman and his thirteen-year battle with Tourette syndrome, numerous medications and treatments, and his family's determination to find help for their son.



Kissing Doorknobs by Hesser, Terry S.

Fourteen-year-old Tara describes how her increasingly strange compulsions begin to take over her life and affect her relationships with her family and friends.



Cut by McCormick, Patricia.

While confined to a mental hospital, thirteen-year-old Callie slowly comes to



understand some of the reasons behind her self-mutilation, and gradually starts to get better.



The Burn Journals by Runyon, Brent.

Presents the true story of Brent Runyon who at fourteen set himself on fire and sustained burns over eighty percent of his body, and describes the months of physical and mental rehabilitation that followed as he attempted to pull his life together.

Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Covey, Sean.

Describes seven habits teenagers can cultivate to help them improve their self-images, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve goals, get along with parents, and make other positive changes in their lives.

