Saint Ann’s Library
2012 Suggested Summer Reading List for Students Entering 7th & 8th Grades

Fiction

Abadzis, Nick. Laika
Laika is no ordinary dog—she started out as an abandoned puppy who grew up to become Earth's first space traveler. This is her journey. Warning: a little sad. Graphic novel.

Bacigalupi, Paolo. Ship Breaker
Earth has dramatically changed due to massive global warming. Cities are under water, trading routes cut through the Poles, ice caps are a thing of the past. Nailer works scavenging copper wire and other bits of metal from the carcasses of old abandoned tanker ships off the coast of what was once Louisiana. In this harsh world where survival is far from guaranteed, Nailer stumbles across a wrecked clipper ship belonging to a swank girl. Can he trust the girl whose life he saves? Can she trust him? Printz Award 2011.

Cashore, Kristen. Bitterblue
18-yr-old Queen Bitterblue, bogged down with meaningless papers and court proceedings, starts to wonder if there is more to her kingdom than she is being told. As the novel unfolds, Bitterblue befriends criminals and uncovers the depth of pain caused by her father’s regime as she tries to make things right. Told with humor, magic, creativity, and a strong sense of justice, this book is a sequel (taking place 8 years later) to Graceling and a companion novel (more than 40 years later) to Fire. For the full experience read Graceling and Fire first (or at least Graceling, which features many of the same characters).

Edwardson, Debby Dahl. My Name Is Not Easy
Alaska, 1960s. Luke and his brother are sent south from their Inupiaq (Eskimo) community to a boarding school with Eskimos, Indians, and a handful of white kids. The story follows the students through several years as they experience racism and learn to come together in an entirely believable way (perhaps because much of it is based on true stories!). Written in a simple and accessible way but with intense and disturbing subject matter, this is one of those books that you’ll read in a day but that will stay with you long after you’ve finished.

Feinstein, John. Last Shot series
Feinstein is a master at sports mysteries. In Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl, steroids and drug testing loom large in this behind-the-scenes look at the Super Bowl where big money and even bigger egos are the driving force behind pro football. The Series: Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery, Vanishing Act, Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl, Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series, The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game

Gantos, Jack. Dead End In Norvelt
In this semi-autobiographical yet crazily unbelievable novel, a kid named Jack Gantos spends his summer vacation grounded and finds himself forced to write obituaries for the eclectic people in his town. There may be a murder. Clever, surprising, hilarious. Newbery Award 2012.
Haddan, Mark. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
One night Christopher John Francis Boone finds his neighbor’s poodle dead and impaled on a garden fork. Christopher, who is autistic and can’t quite make sense of other people’s behavior, spends one night in jail and then determines to find the dog’s killer. His school social worker encourages him to write a book about his investigations. This is the book.

Hinton, S. E. The Outsiders
Since the death of Ponyboy’s parents, his brothers and his gang have been his family. When his best friend kills a member of a rival gang, a violent nightmare begins. This classic was one of the first novels for young adults published, and Hinton was only sixteen when she wrote it! If you like this, check out Hinton’s other books!

Kantor, Melissa. The Darlings In Love
As freshman year continues, Jane, Natalya, and Victoria from The Darlings Are Forever are back, and this time they’re each trying to navigate their relationships with boys. Told from all three girls’ perspectives, The Darlings in Love gives a realistic portrayal of different ways teenage girls handle their first loves. If you like this title, try any of Kantor’s other books. Saint Ann’s author!

Klauss, Lucas. Everything You Need to Survive the Apocalypse
Phillip lives with his atheist father in a small town dominated by evangelical Christians... including Rebekah, the hot girl who just might like him back. This is the story of Phillip discovering who he is and what he is (and isn’t) comfortable compromising for others. Saint Ann’s visiting author!

Lai, Thanh. Inside Out and Back Again
A Vietnamese girl moves to the U.S. during the war and struggles with identity, language, racism, and loss. The novel-in-verse format reads quickly and allows a certain depth by playing with what is and isn’t said on a given page. Funny, clever, and moving, with good character development for such a short book.

Lo, Malinda. Ash
A Cinderella story with a delightful and unique twist. Beautifully written fantasy, a nice story of love, empowerment, and magic. If you like Ash, check out Huntress, the book’s prequel (but written second).

Lockhart, E. The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks
Frankie returns to her fancy boarding school after a summer of changes, and finds herself dating a gorgeous senior who is part of a long-standing all-boys secret society. Frankie uses her wit (and quite a bit of righteous indignation) to manipulate the club and challenge its (and the school’s) sexist and classist nature. If you like this clever and dynamic story, check out Lockhart’s other books, including the Ruby Oliver series!

Meyer, L.A. Bloody Jack Adventures series
A penniless orphan at the end of the 18th century in London, Mary joins a gang of street kids in order to survive. When the leader of her gang is killed, she takes his clothes, changes her name and heads out to sea as a ship’s boy. Pretending to be a boy aboard a ship for two years is no easy feat, but "Jacky" manages quite skillfully. The Series: Bloody Jack, Curse of the Blue Tattoo, Under the Jolly Roger, In the Belly of the Bloodhound, Mississippi Jack, My Bonny Light Horseman
Mulligan, Andy. **Trash**
Raphael, Gardo and Rat are trash pickers--every day they comb through the massive city dump looking for items to scavenge, re-purpose or sell. When Raphael finds a small leather bag and the police come looking for it, he knows that it must be important. Filled with intrigue and excitement as well as a larger commentary about the devastating dichotomy between rich and poor. *Slumdog Millionaire* for the younger crowd.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Monster**
Written in the dual form of journal entries and a movie script, this 2000 Printz Award winner is about a teenager on trial for murder. Author Myers has said that the story is an amalgamation of real experiences of teenagers he has met in prisons.

Ness, Patrick. **The Knife of Never Letting Go**
Todd Hewitt is the last child born to a world in which a war has killed all the women and infected the men with a germ that broadcasts their thoughts (or Noise) for all to hear. Just before his thirteenth birthday, Todd discovers a hole in the Noise and is forced to flee his settlement and run for his life. Taking only his dog Manchee, a knife, and a book that he can’t read, he discovers that there is far more to his world than he has been led to believe. If you like this, read the others in the *Chaos Walking* series: *The Ask and the Answer, Monsters of Men.*

Ness, Patrick. **A Monster Calls**
Winner of the first Saint Ann’s Mock Newbery Award, *A Monster Calls* is the devastatingly moving story of a boy whose mother has cancer and who is visited by a monster each night. The monster wants Conor’s story and tells him stories of its own that question ideas of truth, good, and evil. This is an introspective and beautifully illustrated tale that you can read on a rainy afternoon... with a box of tissues.

O’Brien, Caragh M. **Birthmarked**
Gaia is a 16-year-old midwife who is forced to turn three babies over to the Enclave each month, essentially stealing them from their mothers so they can lead “better” lives in the city. When Gaia’s parents are arrested, she begins a journey of questioning and ultimately challenging the Enclave’s ideas about creating an exclusive gene pool. *Birthmarked*, a science fiction book written in the style of a fantasy, is the first in a trilogy. If you like it, read *Prized and Promised* (October 2012).

Raskin, Ellen. **The Westing Game**
In this 1979 Newbery winner for all ages, Sam Westing chooses sixteen people to compete for his inheritance in his “final game.” Mystery abounds as the characters try to figure out each other’s connections to Westing in this intricate Clue-like plot.

Resau, Laura & Maria Virginia Farinango. **The Queen of Water**
Virginia is taken from her indigenous Ecuadorian village at age seven to serve a ruling class family, only to find that her new life is worse than she could have imagined. Based on a true story, *The Queen of Water* is Virginia’s unforgettable struggle to survive against all odds.

Schmatz, Pat. **Bluefish**
Boy (Travis) with secrets and dealing with loss meets girl (Velveeta) with secrets and dealing with loss. The two become intensely close, though romance is only suggested. Those familiar with Stargirl will appreciate Velveeta in this funny and moving novel. A quick but deep read.
Schmidt, Gary. *Okay For Now*  
Doug, a smart boy who can’t read, moves to a small town with his mother, abusive father, and troublemaker brother. His older brother is fighting in Vietnam. Doug discovers a talent for art and an appreciation for Audubon’s bird paintings. With a new friend, Lil, Doug is able to bring out the good in people in impossible but entirely believable ways and works to make Audubon’s book (and the world around him) whole. Well-developed characters, plot that ties itself together nicely.

Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl*  
All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her dad was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she’s in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her. Then America enters World War II, and the army forms the WASP - Women Airforce Service Pilots. Unfortunately, Ida has to pass for white in order to realize her dream.

Stork, Francisco X. * Marcelo in the Real World*  
Marcelo has Asperger’s syndrome and plans to spend the summer before his senior year training the therapeutic-riding ponies at Paterson, his special education school. Marcelo’s father, however, has other plans for him and insists that Marcelo spend the summer in the *real world*, working in the mail room of his law firm. Mystery, romance, friendship—this book has it all.

Vizzini, Ned. *It’s Kind of a Funny Story*  
When the pressure of going to an elite New York prep school gets to be too much for Craig, he gets admitted to a psych ward. The only thing is, the teen section is being renovated so he is placed in the adult ward where he meets a cast of crazy characters. After you read the book, watch the movie.

Wasserman, Robin. *Skinned* trilogy  
Lia Kahn had the perfect life until she was in a horrible car accident. Her parents couldn’t let her die so they had her downloaded into a new body that only looks human. Lia will never feel pain again, she will never age, and she can never truly die. But she is also rejected by her friends, betrayed by her boyfriend, and alienated from her old life. Who is she? *The Series: Skinned, Crashed, Wired*

Yang, Gene Luen & Derek Kirk Kim. *The Eternal Smile: Three Stories*  
*Story #1:* A prince who defeats his greatest enemy only to discover that maybe his world is not what it had seemed. *Story #2:* A frog who finds that just being a frog might be the way to go. *Story #3:* A woman who receives an email from Prince Henry of Nigeria asking for a loan to help save his family. Graphic novel.

**Nonfiction**

Angel, Ann. *Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing*  
Brought up in a conservative, small Texas town, Janis Joplin became known for singing the blues with her distinctive husky, passionate voice. Forty years ago she died from an overdose of alcohol and drugs at the age of 27. Full-color and black-and-white photos and excerpts from interviews and letters help tell the story of Janis’s life.

Bowers, Rick. *Spies of the Mississippi. The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement*  
A spy network where neighbors spied on neighbors, teachers spied on students, ministers spied on church-goers, and spies even spied on spies? That’s what the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, formed in 1956, became. The goal was to stop integration and crush the civil rights movement in the state. Uses primary-source materials and interviews with surviving activists.
Kahn, Roger. The Boys of Summer
A classic sports book. Kahn, an award-winning sports writer, tells the story of the Brooklyn Dodgers, the team that broke the color barrier with Jackie Robinson.

Krakauer, Jon. Into Thin Air
A first-hand account of a catastrophic expedition up Mount Everest. In March 1996, Outside magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead.

Marrin, Albert. Flesh & Blood So Cheap
The haunting real life story of the 146 people – mostly women and girls – who died in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911. Placed in the context of immigration and poor working conditions, Flesh & Blood So Cheap is full of maps, photographs, and entirely readable text.

Swanson, James L. Chasing Lincoln’s Killer
A historical thriller recounting the 12-day search for Lincoln’s assassin. This young adult version of Swanson's bestselling Manhunt is full of period photographs and dialogue that is said to come from original sources.

Sedaris, David. Me Talk Pretty Some Day
Scathing, hilarious vignettes of Sedaris’s life written in his characteristic dead-pan style. Wacky family, friends, and acquaintances abound. And if you like it, there’s plenty more Sedaris where that came from!

Spelman, Lucy H. & Ted Y. Mashima (editors). The Rhino with Glue-On Shoes
Zoo veterinarians write about their patients. A goldfish who receives cancer treatment, dung beetles with mites, a giraffe with an injured leg and a homesick eel are just a few examples. Prepare to be charmed.

Tolan, Sandy. The Lemon Tree
A simple lemon tree outside a small stone house in Ramle, Israel (formerly Al-Ramle, Palestine), holds different meaning for Dalia, who lives there now, and Bashir, whose family lived there before 1948. This true account reads like a novel as it chronicles the relationship between an Israeli and a Palestinian family across decades.

Classics

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen
Jane Eyre - Charlotte Brontë
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
The Three Musketeers - Alexandre Dumas
The Hunchback of Notre Dame - Victor Hugo
Their Eyes Were Watching God - Zora Neale Hurston
Rebecca - Daphne Du Maurier

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde - Robert Louis Stevenson
The Lord of the Rings series - J.R.R. Tolkien
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea - Jules Verne
War of the Worlds - H.G. Wells
And finally, if you liked *The Hunger Games*, you might enjoy:

Aguirre, Anna. *Enclave*
Anderson, M.T. *Feed*
Bachor, Pam. *Candor*
Card, Orson Scott. *Ender’s Game*
Card, Orson Scott. *Pathfinder*
Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling*
Clare, Cassandra. *Clockwork Angel*
Colfer, Eoin. *The Supernaturalist*
Condie, Ally. *Matched*
Dashner, James. *The Maze Runner*
Destefano, Lauren. *Wither*
Doctorow, Cory. *For the Win*
Doctorow, Cory. *Little Brother*
DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember*
Fisher, Catherine. *Incarceron*
Gill, David Macinnis. *Black Hole Sun*
Haines, Lise. *Girl in the Arena*
Hirsch, Jeff. *The Eleventh Plague*
Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*
Lu, Marie. *Legend*
Moore, Alan. *Watchmen*
Ness, Patrick. *The Knife of Never Letting Go*
O’Brien, Caragh. *Birthmarked*
Oliver, Lauren. *Delirium*
Orwell, George. *1984*
Pfeffer, Susan. *Life As We Knew It*
Reeve, Phillip. *Mortal Engines*
Revis, Beth. *Across the Universe*
Rosoff, Meg. *How I Live Now*
Roth, Veronica. *Divergent*
Testa, Dom. *The Comet’s Curse*
Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*
Westerfeld, Scott. *Uglies*
Young, Moira. *Blood Red Road*
Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*
Zevin, Gabrielle. *All These Things I’ve Done*

(And if you haven’t read *The Hunger Games*, this summer might be the time!)

Happy Reading!

Love, Hannah, Denise, and Ragan

Current and past booklists can be found online at:
http://www.saintannsny.org/depart/library/publib.html