

MCDS Summer Reading 2025 for Students Entering 8th Grade

Entering 8th graders have no written assignments due. However, here are three key points to remember:

1. Entering 8th graders must read ***Almost American Girl* by Robin Ha** plus two books from the list below.
2. Keep a list of everything you read and feel free to read beyond the minimum two book requirement.
3. Using post-it notes or a separate document, please highlight and take notes on important scenes or character development in *Almost American Girl* as you read the story. Look up words you don't know. Read actively.

Comics

Couvson, Monique. *Charisma's Turn: A Story of Girls and Their Gifts*

Diaz, Dani. *Dreamover*

Gao, Laura. *Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese-American*

Knisley, Lucy. *Woe: A Housecat's Story of Despair*

Kress, Adrienne. *Dreams Come to Life* (Bendy Graphic Novel #1)

Sakisaka, Io. *Sakura, Saku, Vol. 1*

Xavier, Clément. *The Bodyguard Unit: Edith Garrud, Women's Suffrage, and Jujitsu*

Fiction

Adventure

Graudin, Ryan. *Wolf by Wolf**

Lu, Marie. *Warcross**

Pearson, Mary E. *Dance of Thieves*

Young, Adrienne. *Fable**

Fantasy

Andrews, Claire M. *Daughter of Sparta**

Burton, Gabi. *Sing Me to Sleep* (Sing Me to Sleep, #1)*

Caldwell, Patrice. *A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope*

Clare, Cassandra. *Chain of Gold* (The Last Hours #1)*

Deonn, Tracy. *Legendborn**

Griffin, Rachel. *The Nature of Witches*

Henning, Sarah. *The Princess Will Save You**

Housman, Ivelisse. *Unseelie* (The Unseelie Duology, #1)*

Ibanez, Isabel. *What the River Knows* (Secrets of the Nile, #1)*

*Indicates a book in a series. You can read any book in the series.

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Fiction

Fantasy (cont)

Lim, Elizabeth. *Six Crimson Cranes**

Little Badger, Darcy. *A Snake Falls to Earth*

Meyer, Marissa. *Cinder: The Lunar Chronicles**

Mafi, Tahereh. *This Woven Kingdom**

Purdie, Kathryn. *The Forest Grimm**

Global Perspectives

Alsaid, Adi. *Come On In*

Hall, Desmond. *Your Corner Dark*

Knazan, Primrose Madayag. *Lessons in Fusion*

Mafi, Tahereh. *A Very Large Expanse of Sea*

Nimr, Sonia. *Wondrous Journeys in Strange Lands*

Historical

Adiba Jaigirdar. *A Million to One*

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women**

Arnold, Elana K. *The Blood Years*

McWilliams, Kelly. *Mirror Girls*

Reynolds, Hannah. *The Summer of Lost Letters*

Richmond, Caroline Tung. *The Great Destroyers*

Safi, Aminah Mae. *Travelers Along the Way: A Robinhood Remix*

Shabazz, Ilyasah. *The Awakening of Malcolm X*

Talley, Robin. *Music from Another World*

Taylor, Jordyn. *The Paper Girl of Paris*

Horror

Anderson, Lily. *Scout's Honor*

Becerra, Katya de. *When Ghosts Call Us Home*

Craig, Erin. *House of Salt and Sorrows**

Douglass, Ryan. *The Taking of Jake Livingston*

Metoui, Meriam. *A Guide to the Dark*

Moore, Bryce. *The Perfect Place to Die*

Morris, Brittney. *The Cost of Knowing*

O'Neal, Kristen. *Lycanthropy and Other Chronic Illnesses*

Ralph, Vincent. *Lock the Doors*

Sterling, Isabel. *These Witches Don't Burn**

Mystery

Àbíké-Íyímídé, Faridah. *Ace of Spades*

Cornwall, Betsy. *Reader, I Murdered Him*

Hoy-Kenny, Marie. *The Girls from Hush Cabin*

Jackson, Tiffany D. *Monday's Not Coming*

McManus, Karen. *One of Us is Lying**

Metoui, Meriam. *Portrait of a Shadow*

Weir, Andy. *The Martian*

Weisenberg, Marit. *This Golden State*

Novels in Verse

Caprara, Rebecca. *Spin*

Kemp, Laekan Zea. *An Appetite for Miracles*

McBride, Amber. *We Are All So Good at Smiling*

McCullough, Joy. *Enter the Body*

Tison, Ari. *Saints of the Household*

Zoboi, Ibi. *Punching the Air*

Realistic

Hand, Cynthia. *The How and the Why*

Heaney, Katie. *The Year I Stopped Trying*

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Fiction

Realistic (cont)

Iloh, Candice. *Every Body Looking*
Khan, Sabina. *Zara Hossain Is Here*
Lee, Kristen R. *Required Reading for the Disenfranchised Freshman*
Lord, Emma. *When You Get the Chance*
Matson, Morgan. *Take Me Home Tonight*
Park, Patricia. *Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim*
Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe**
Smith, Joy L. *Turning*
Stone, Nic. *Chaos Theory*
Thomas, Angie. *Concrete Rose**
Thomas, Angie. *On the Come Up*
Van Wagenen, Maya. *Chronically Dolores*
Watson, Renee. *Love is a Revolution*
Wexler, Jennie. *Where It All Lands*

Romance

Boyce, Kristy. *Dungeons and Drama**
Clayton, Dhonielle. *Blackout**
Elston, Ashley. *10 Blind Dates*
Gonzales, Sophie. *The Perfect Guy Doesn't Exist*
Hayden, Chaz. *The First Thing About You*
Lo, Malinda. *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*
McWilliams, Kelly. *Your Plantation Prom is Not Okay*
Silvera, Adam. *They Both Die at the End**

Science Fiction

Gardner, Sally. *The Door That Led to Where*
Grant, Michael. *Gone**

Hardinge, Frances. *Deeplight*
Johnson, Lora Beth. *Goddess in the Machine**
Liss, Jennifer. *Wild Like Us*
Yancey, Rick. *The 5th Wave**

Short Stories

Benton-Walker, Terry J. *The White Guy Dies First: 13 Scary Stories of Fear and Power*
Carpenter, Nora Shalaway. *Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes*
Clayton, Dhonielle. *A Universe of Wishes*
Córdova, Zoraida. *Vampires Never Get Old: Tales with Fresh Bite*
davis, g. haron. *All Signs Point to Yes*
Hudson, Wade. *Recognize!: An Anthology Honoring and Amplifying Black Life*
Longoria, Margarita. *Living Beyond Borders: Growing Up Mexican in America*
Newbould, Cassandra. *Every Body Shines: Sixteen Stories About Living Fabulously Fat*
Pan, Emily X.R. *Foreshadow: Stories to Celebrate The Magic of Reading & Writing YA*
Reynolds, Jason. *Take the Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance*
Shusterman, Neal. *Gleanings: Stories from the Arc of a Scythe**

Sports

Fujimura, Sara. *Every Reason We Shouldn't**
Herbach, Geoff. *Cracking the Bell*
Kester, Eric. *Gut Check*
McAdam, Tash. *Blood Sport*
Meinke, Rachel. *Along for the Ride*
Meriano, Anna. *This is How We Fly*
Redd, Tara Wilson. *Fierce as the Wind*

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Venturini, Fred. *The Escape of Light*
Vivian, Siobhan. *We Are the Wildcats*

Rusch, Elizabeth. *The Twenty One: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change*

Nonfiction

Biographies

Benedict, Jeff. *LeBron*
Castle, Jordan. *Disappearing Act: A True Story*
Eger, Edith. *The Ballerina of Auschwitz*
Fleming, Candace. *Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II*
Fleshman, Lauren. *Good for a Girl: A Woman Running in a Man's World*
Gonzalez, Elvira K. *Hurdles in the Dark: My Story of Survival, Resilience, and Triumph*
Locke, Katherine. *Gender Rebels: 30 Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive Heroes Past and Present*
Shepard, Ray Anthony. *A Long Time Coming: A Lyrical Biography of Race in America from Ona Judge to Barack Obama*
Wakefield, Dan. *Kurt Vonnegut: The Making of a Writer*
Zamora, Javier. *Solito*

Historical

Florio, John. *Doomed: Sacco, Vanzetti & the End of the American Dream*
Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste (Adapted for Young Adults)*

Science

Carson, Mary Kay. *Mission to Pluto: The First Visit to an Ice Dwarf and the Kuiper Belt*
Cherrix, Amy. *In the Shadow of the Moon: America, Russia, and the Hidden History of the Space Race*
Goldsmith, Connie. *Understanding Coronaviruses: Sars, Mers, and the Covid-19 Pandemic*
Jensen, Kelly. *Body Talk: 37 Voices Explore Our Radical Anatomy*
Klein, Naomi. *How to Change Everything: The Young Human's Guide to Protecting the Planet and Each Other*

Current Issues & Events

Cognevich, Christie. *Introverts: Insights and Tips for Teenagers (Empowering You)*
Cooper, Candy J. *Shackled: A Tale of Wronged Kids, Rogue Judges, and a Town that Looked Away*
Kendi, Ibram X. *How to Be a (Young) Antiracist*
Mooney, Carla. *Censorship: What Is It and How Does It Impact Society?*

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