

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

**SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR
STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 8**

- Bauer, Joan** *The Rules of the Road.* (Realistic) Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of successful shoe stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire, and along the way Jenna hones her talents as a saleswoman and finds the strength to face her alcoholic father.
- Cole, Brock** *The Goats.* (Realistic) Two children, exiled, lost, in a few ordinary American places clustered around a lake, bring about their own deliverance.
- Cormier, Robert** *I Am the Cheese.* (Realistic) A young boy desperately tries to unlock his past yet knows he must hide those memories if he is to remain alive.
- Fleischman, Paul** *Whirligig.* (Realistic) While traveling to each corner of the country to build a whirligig in memory of the girl whose death he causes, sixteen-year-old Brian finds forgiveness and atonement.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly** *Nory Ryan's Song.* (Historical Fiction) When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.
- Hobbs, Will** *Jason's Gold.* (Adventure/Historical Fiction) When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 5,000-mile journey to strike it rich.
- Kerr, M. E.** *Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack.* (Realistic) Fifteen-year-old Tucker's life changes in many ways when he meets the unusual overweight girl who gives his cat a home.
- Lisle, Janet Taylor** *Afternoon of the Elves.* (Fantasy) As Hillary works in the miniature village, allegedly built by elves, in Sara-Kate's backyard, she becomes more and more curious about Sara-Kate's real life inside her big, gloomy house with her mysterious, silent mother.

- Mahy, Margaret** *The Haunting.* (Mystery) After a shy and rather withdrawn eight-year-old begins receiving frightening supernatural images and messages, he learns about a family legacy which could be considered a curse or a rare gift.
- Merrill, Jean** *The Pushcart War.* (Realistic) The outbreak of a war between truck drivers and pushcart peddlers brings the mounting problems of traffic to the attention of both the city of New York and the world.
- Myers, Walter Dean** *Fallen Angels.* (Historical Fiction) Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.
- Paterson, Katherine** *Lyddie.* (Historical Fiction) Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.
- White, Ruth** *Belle Prater's Boy.* (Realistic) When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives.