

# Sarasota School of Arts and Sciences Summer Reading Program



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to your new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts classroom! Attached is a list of novels from which you are to choose your summer reading books. Every future eighth grader must read one required novel (*Nothing but the Truth* by Avi) and one free choice novel listed below. ESOL/ESE students may listen to novels on tape. There will be a test on *Nothing but the Truth* by the third day of school.

Our program is designed to promote the skills for effective reading and learning. A reading list and corresponding assignments can be found on the school's website, [www.ssas.org](http://www.ssas.org). The intent of this list is to give you assistance in directing your child to some quality literature.

Books will be available at Barnes and Noble and Books-A-Million in Sarasota. ***In addition, there is an Amazon.com link on the school website that allows SSA+S to earn money back on all Amazon purchases!***

The following requirements are as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: One mandatory required book and one free choice book from the list

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: One mandatory required book and one free choice book from the list

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: One mandatory required book and one free choice book from the list.

Upon returning from summer vacation, each child will take an assessment test on the mandatory book and be required to hand in a project on the free choice book.

Sincerely,

The Language Arts' Department

## Seventh moving into Eighth Grade Requirements:

1. You will have an assessment test on the mandatory novel by the third day of school.
2. Your free choice book will require you to create a ½ poster board comparing and contrasting one character from each story (*Nothing But the Truth* and Free Choice). Please use pictures, magazines, and any items that will clearly compare and contrast the characters. You may create a Venn Diagram, a chart, etc. **This project will be collected on the second day of school.** On the back of the Venn diagram list each item that you put on the front, and why you chose it. Quality of the finished product is part of your grade!
  - a. For Example: *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman  
First Name Last Name  
Buttons - I put buttons on my chart because the Other Mother had button eyes.

### Mandatory Novel:

Avi

*Nothing but the Truth*

(Young Adult)

Philip Molloy discovers that humming in school during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance can be the catalyst for action by family, friends, strangers, and teachers. This is a book that should create comment and discussion.

### Free Choice Novels

Anderson, Laurie Halse

*Speak*

(Young Adult - Trauma)

High school freshman (and outcast) Melinda is having a harder and harder time finding the courage to speak out loud. With the help of a compassionate teacher, will Melissa finally have the courage to confront her tragic past and find her voice? **This book contains mature themes.**

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*

(Non-fiction - Holocaust)

This timeless classic of a girl growing up while hiding from the Nazis during the Holocaust reminds us all of how fragile and amazing life is. Anne's unyielding optimism and insight into human relationships have universal appeal to people of all ages. **This book contains mature themes.**

Bertrand, Diane Gonzales,

*Trino's Choice*

(Young Adult - Gangs)

Lacking adult guidance, seventh grader Trino must decide whether to join a violent street gang or to allow new people in his life to help him choose a better path. (Mexican Americans-Fiction, Gangs-Fiction)

Budhos, Marina

*Ask Me No Questions*

(Young Adult - Immigration)

The Hossains have lived illegally in New York for years on an expired visa, but their years of hiding end when they seek, and are denied, asylum in Canada. Following their father's arrest and detention, teen sisters Nadira and Aisha put together the documentation and make a case that requires the judges to see them as individuals rather than terror suspects. Will Nadira and Aisha be able to work together save their father, and themselves, from deportation?

Grant, Michael

*Gone*

(Science Fiction/Horror)

It's a scenario that every kid has dreamed about: adults suddenly disappear, and kids have free reign. In this case, though, it's everyone 14 and older who disappears, and the harsh reality of such unreal circumstances isn't a joyride after all.

Wells, H.G.

*War of the Worlds.*

(Science Fiction - Classic)

Martians invade late 19<sup>th</sup> century England and create havoc.

Some of this information was retrieved from

[http://www.haisln.org/images/Haisln\\_7\\_8\\_2009\\_Reading\\_List.pdf](http://www.haisln.org/images/Haisln_7_8_2009_Reading_List.pdf) on February 23, 2010.