



# Hampton Academy

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



### SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS!

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The books on this list are not required, simply suggestions. Enjoy reading this summer.

**Bloor, Edward. Tangerine.**

So what if he's legally blind? Even with his bottle-thick, bug-eyed glasses, Paul Fisher can play soccer. No one ever listens to Paul, though--until the family moves to Tangerine. In *Tangerine*, even a blind, geeky, alien freak can become cool. Soccer fans will like this one.

**Colville, Bruce. The Skull of Truth.**

The *Skull of Truth* is a hilarious story featuring a talking skull who forces people to tell the truth woven into an environmental political fight.

**Venokur, Ross. The Autobiography of Meatball Finkelstein.**

Thirteen-year-old Meatball, an overweight vegetarian, discovers that eating meatballs gives him the magic power of turning into anything he wants, and he uses this ability to fight his principal's plot to eliminate fun from the planet.

**Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Game.**

Aliens have attacked Earth and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses and then training them in the arts of war. The early training takes the form of games. Ender is a six-year-old genius among geniuses; he wins all the games. He is smart enough to know that time is running out; but is he smart enough to save the planet?

**Gaiman, Neil. Neverwhere.**

Richard Mayhew is a bumbling young businessman who is about to discover a new side of London after helping a wounded girl named Door. This author is famous for his comic book series: *Sandman*.

**Westerfield, Scott. Uglies.**

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait, not for her license and not for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. Tally's friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't very pretty. (*Isinglass Teen Read '07 Award nominee*)

**Zevin, Gabrielle. Elsewhere.**

Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth and it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? (*Isinglass Teen Read Award '07 nominee*)

**Delaney, Joseph. The Last Apprentice.**

In an unspecified England some centuries ago, Thomas, the twelve-year-old 7th son of a 7th son, is taken on as an apprentice by the local Spook. Tom isn't sure he's cut out for the solitary, scary life, and he soon finds himself in trouble.

**Hamilton, Virginia. M.C.Higgins, the Great.**

Mayo Cornelius Higgins sits on his gleaming, forty-foot steel pole, towering over his home on Sarah's Mountain, looking over the rolling hills and the strip mining that may someday endanger his home. M.C. dreams of an escape for himself and his family. One day, atop his pole, he thinks he sees it—two strangers are making their way towards Sarah's Mountain.

**Roberts, Willo Davis. The Kidnappers.**

Remember the little boy who cried wolf? You don't want to earn a reputation of being a liar. When Joey is the only person to see the school bully being kidnapped, nobody believes his story.

**Stanley, Diane. The Mysterious Matter of I.M. Fine.**

Noticing that a popular series of horror novels is having a bizarre effect on the behavior of its readers, Franny and Beamer set out to find the mysterious author.

**Fleischman, Paul. Whirligig.**

Brent kills a teenage girl while driving home drunk from a party. Since the victim loved whirligigs, her mother asks Brent to build four and plant them in the four corners of the U.S. - Washington, California, Florida and Maine.

**Sachar, Louis. Holes.**

Stanley Yelnats is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sentenced to Camp Green Lake. Every day, each inmate must dig a hole that measures five feet deep and five feet in diameter in the dry lakebed. Stanley soon suspects the holes are not just to build character but that the warden is searching for something.

**Kipling, Rudyard. The Jungle Book.**

Mowgli is not like any other boy. When he was a baby he wandered deep into the jungle and was found there by a family of wolves. Now he is a member of the Wolf Pack and is the only "man-cub" in a forest filled with wild animals.

**Yolen, Jane and Coville, Bruce. Armageddon Summer.**

Jed and Marina, two teens who've never met, try to protect their families by accompanying them to a mountaintop in Massachusetts along with the chosen 144 "true believers" preparing for the end of the world.

**Bunting, Eve. The Presence.**

While visiting her grandmother in California, seventeen-year-old Catherine comes in contact with a mysterious stranger who says he can help her contact a friend who died in a car crash for which Catherine feels responsible.

**Cabot, Meg. Haunted: A Tale of the Mediator.**

Sixteen-year-old Susannah Simon is a mediator, one who communicates with the dead, and she also happens to be in love with Jesse, a nineteenth-century ghost.

**Griffin, Peni R. the Ghost Sitter.**

For 50 years, ten-year-old Susie has been waiting for her parents to come back. Each family that moves into her home seems not to notice her, except for the children. Susie likes children and she even likes to baby-sit, but can she baby-sit forever?

**Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Jade Green: A Ghost Story.**

While living with her uncle in a house haunted by the ghost of a young woman, recently orphaned Judith Sparrow wonders if her one small mistake causes mysterious happenings.

**Seabrooke, Brenda. The Haunting at Stratton Falls.**

At Christmastime in 1944, while staying with disagreeable cousins in New York State because her father is in Europe fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Abby discovers that her relatives' old house is haunted by the ghost of a girl from the Civil War era.

**Sleator, William. The Beasties or the Boxes.**

Horror writer R.L. Stein says that he reads Sleator's books when he wants a good scare.

**Collins, Pat Lowery. Just Imagine.**

During the Depression, having discovered that she has the ability to have out-of-body experiences, twelve-year old Mary Francis tries to use it to deal with the "peculiar domestic situation" caused by her family's financial plight.

**Hesser, Terry. Kissing Doorknobs.**

When Tara Sullivan was eleven years old, she heard a phrase that changed her life: "Step on a crack, break your mother's back." Now, everywhere she goes, Tara must count every crack in the sidewalk. If she gets interrupted or loses her place, she has to go home and start all over again. As she gets older, her "habits" don't get better--they change and increase.

**Deuker, Carl. High Heat.**

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private schooling begins to fall apart.

**Koss, Amy Goldman. The Cheat.**

When Sarah gets her hands on the answers to the eighth-grade geography midterm and decides to share them with some other students, the consequences are far-ranging.

**Lupica, Mike. Travel Team.**

Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court – but don't tell him that because no one plays with more heart or court sense. None of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team.

**Randle, Kristen D. Slumming.**

In their senior year of high school, three best friends, Nikki, Alicia, and Sam, attempt an "experiment" in which they each befriend a classmate they think needs attention and try to improve that person's life.

**Weeks, Sarah. So Be It.**

Heidi is on a quest; she doesn't know when her birthday is or who her father is. In fact, everything about Heidi and her mentally disabled mother's past is a mystery. Then a strange word in her mother's vocabulary begins to haunt her. Heidi sets out on a cross country journey in search of the secrets of her past. (*Isinglass Teen Read '07 Award nominee*)

**Paterson, Katherine. Jacob Have I Loved.**

Caroline has had enough of her twin sister. Caroline is beautiful, talented and better. Growing up on the small island, Caroline seems to do nothing but take from Louise. They have spent their lives entwined...what will it take for Louise to break free?

**London, Jack. White Fang.**

Part dog, part wolf, and he was the only one out of five tiny cubs to survive. In this lonely world, White Fang soon learned to follow the harsh law of the North—kill or be killed. Will he ever find a gentle master to learn kindness?

**Barnett, Frances Hodgson. The Secret Garden.**

Mary is an unhappy orphan forced to live in the home of a wealthy guardian—a busy man who has no time for her at all. But when Mary meets her guardian's mysterious son, she discovers a secret garden hidden on the estate— and a startling change begins to come over her.

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