

PHILLIPS PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Eighth Grade Summer Reading List (revised for 2010-2011)

****Required:**

The Hunger Games (Collins)

The Hobbit (Tolkien)

*****Reader's Choice: (Choose one)**

Canyons (Paulsen) Finding a skull on a camping trip in the canyons outside El Paso, Texas, Brennan becomes involved with the fate of a young Apache Indian who lived in the 1800s. Two boys, separated by the canyons of time and two vastly different cultures, face the challenges through which they become men.

A Day No Pigs Would Die (Peck) The story of growing up on a Shaker farm touches the whole cycle of life and death. A painful incident that involves the slaughter of Rob's beloved pet pig is instrumental in urging him toward adulthood. The death of his father completes the process of his accepting responsibility.

Don't Look Behind You (Duncan) Seventeen-year-old April finds her comfortable life changed forever when death threatens to her father, a witness in a federal case, force her family to go into hiding under assumed names and flee the pursuit of a hired killer.

Raisin in the Sun (Hansberry) A drama of a young black man and his family and his effort to break through the wall of prejudice around him.

A Ring of Endless Light (L'Engle) Sixteen-year-old Vicky Austin is saddened by the fact that her beloved grandfather has terminal cancer and the death of a family friend who died rescuing a would-be suicide. She becomes friends with Adam, who realizes that Vicky has telepathic powers and can communicate with the dolphins at his marine biology station. Winner of the 1981 Newbery Honor Medal

Summer of My German Soldier (Greene) The moving story of a dangerous friendship between a twelve-year-old Jewish girl and a German POW during World War II.

The Grey King (Cooper) Will Stanton must defy the evil powers of the Grey King in this finely constructed contribution to the high fantasy genre. Winner of the 1976 Newbery Medal

Tears of a Tiger (Draper) The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

Hoops (Myers) Seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson hopes that basketball will be his ticket out of Harlem until the savage underworld of sports and big money forces him to make a choice.

Speak (Anderson) High school freshman Melinda barely speaks. She is a social outcast for making the 911 call that ended a wild party, one at which she was assaulted – something she has been unable to tell anyone.

****Students will respond to their two required books in teacher-given tests the first two weeks of school.**

*****Students' first composition will be a written assignment on the reader's choice book and will be completed in class the first week of school.**