



2010 -Summer Reading- Grade 8
Stoneham Middle School, Stoneham, MA

Welcome to eighth grade! We hope you have a wonderful vacation, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall. **Students are required to read one of the books listed below and complete note cards.** Students may use these note cards when they are tested the first week of school.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor- Legally blind, Paul Fisher has lived most of his life in the shadow of his football star brother. But things change when they move to Tangerine County where bizarre natural disasters are everyday occurrences, and Paul wins an unlikely new crew of friends on the soccer field. In a climactic ending, Paul finally confronts his parents with the truth about the brother he fears.

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer- A meteor is going to hit the moon, and 16-year-old Miranda, like the rest of her family and neighbors in rural Pennsylvania, intends to watch it happen. But the event is not the benign impact predicted. The moon is knocked closer to Earth, setting off a chain of horrific occurrences: tsunamis, earthquakes, and, later, volcanic eruptions that disrupt life across the planet. Written in the form of Miranda's diary, this story depicts one family's struggle to survive in a world drastically changed.

The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin- Seventeen-year-old Matt writes an extended letter to his youngest sister, Emmy, recalling their childhood with Nikki, their sadistic and mentally disturbed mother. When Nikki, just out of jail, kidnaps Emmy, Matt finds out exactly how far he will go to ensure his sister's safety.

A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass- Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

While you read, take note cards on the following information. Your details can be bulleted, note format or complete sentences. You may write or type (and paste) on any size index cards. **You will be able to use these cards when you take a multiple-choice test on the book in the first week of school.** Students who do not have cards will not be penalized on the test, but they will not have the benefit of the cards helping them.

BRING THESE IN THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. Write your name on each card.

Card # (Use separate note cards for each number)

1. **Character:** Describe all major (and some minor) characters. For example, you may want to include the characters' personalities, appearances, and how others treat them and how they treat others.
2. **Conflicts:** Explain the obstacles/problems facing the main character (i.e. person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. themselves, person vs. animal)
3. **Plot:** Briefly summarize the plot in your own words (10-15 sentences)
4. **Setting:** Include a vivid description of the main setting; remember to use descriptive adjectives.
5. **Theme:** What lesson/s does the author want the reader to come to understand?

