This summer, Eighth graders are required to read three books. For each of these books, the students will complete an assessment: two evaluations to be completed during the summer, and one in-class essay to be completed once school resumes. The evaluation sheets will be collected on the first day of school. The required book is William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*. This evaluation will be an in-class essay when school resumes. For the second and third books, students will make one selection from the classics list and another from the contemporary list. The evaluation for these two assignments is located under the Summer Reading platform of the Hammond website.

**Required for English and Government:**

Golding, William  
*Lord of the Flies*  
Golding’s acclaimed novel tells the story of a group of British schoolboys who are stranded on an island. As the world outside of them crumbles under nuclear war, the boys attempt to establish their own government, but with disastrous results.  
Genre: Allegorical fiction, Dystopian fiction

**Choose one title from the classics list:**

Christie, Agatha  
*And Then There Were None*  
Ten strangers—each with a sordid past— are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and, upon arrival, begin to die one by one.  
Genre: Mystery

Alcott, Louisa May  
*Little Women*  
*Little Women* chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in eighteenth century New England during the Civil War.  
Genre: Coming-of-Age

Crane, Stephen  
*The Red Badge of Courage*  
Tells the story of Union Soldier Henry Fleming, who flees the field of battle. Wrought with shame, Henry yearns for an injury to eliminate his guilt.  
Genre: Historical fiction, War drama
Frank, Anne  
**The Diary of a Young Girl**  
A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl records her impressions of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps.  
Genre: Nonfiction

Hemingway, Ernest  
**The Old Man and the Sea**  
Santiago, an aging fisherman, struggles with luck and fortune as he tries for days to reel in an impressive marlin.  
Genre: Literary fiction, Heroic quest

Knowles, John  
**A Separate Peace**  
Gene was a lonely, introverted intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happened between them at school one summer during the early years of World War II is the subject of *A Separate Peace*... A bestseller for over twenty years, it is a starkly moving parable of the dark forces that brood over the tortured world of adolescence.  
Genre: Coming-of-age

Mandel, Emily St. John  
**Station Eleven**  
An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days of civilization’s collapse, Station Eleven tells the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.  
Genre: Literary Fiction, Post-apocalyptic, Dystopian

Rubalcaba, Jill and Eric H. Cline.  
**Digging for Troy: From Homer to Hisarlik**  
Rubalcaba teams up with Eric Cline, noted archaeologist, to make sense of the complicated, controversial, contradictory history of the remains of the Turkish site called Hisarlik, better known as Troy. It has been intermittently occupied for 3500 years, from 2900 BCE to 550 CE, and is often thought to be the Troy written about by Homer in *The Iliad*.  
Genre: Nonfiction

Wells, H. G.  
**The War of the Worlds**  
In this Wells’ classic, an alien race attacks London, showing the vulnerability of the human race.  
Genre: Science fiction
Choose one title from the contemporary list:

**Alexander, Kwame**  *Booked*
Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.
Genre: Novel-in-verse, Sports, Realistic fiction

**Alifirenka, Caitlin**  *I will always write you back*
In this dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends--and better people--through their long-distance exchange as pen-pals.
Genre: Nonfiction, Memoir

**Gratz, Alan**  *Prisoner B-3087*
Based on the astonishing true story of Ruth and Jack Gruener, this gripping novel follows a young Jewish boy from Poland who is forced from one nightmarish concentration camp to another, as World War II rages all around him.
Genre: Historical fiction, Holocaust

**Korman, Gordon**  *Restart*
Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?
Genre: Realistic fiction, Humor

**Lupica, Mike**  *QB 1*
Jake Cullen, fourteen, lives in the shadows of his father and older brother until he becomes the starting quarterback for the high school football team and finally has his chance to shine.
Genre: Sports, Realistic Fiction

**Reynolds, Jason**  *Ghost*
Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.
Genre: Sports, Realistic Fiction
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skye, Evelyn</td>
<td><em>The Crown’s Game</em></td>
<td>Vika Andreyeva can summon the snow and turn ash into gold. Nikolai Karimov can see through walls and conjure bridges out of thin air. They are the only enchanters in Russia, and when the Ottoman Empire and the Kazakhs threaten to attack, the tsar wants a powerful enchanter by his side, and as an advisor for the prince, Pasha. He initiates the Crown's Game, a duel of magical skill, and the winner will become his Imperial Enchanter; the loser will die. Genre: Fantasy, Romance</td>
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<td>Sonnenblick, Jordan</td>
<td><em>Drums, girls and dangerous pie</em></td>
<td>When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. Genre: Realistic fiction</td>
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<td>Stead, Rebecca</td>
<td><em>When you reach me</em></td>
<td>As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, &quot;The $20,000 Pyramid,&quot; a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. Genre: Fantasy, Speculative fiction</td>
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<td>Vande Velde, Vivian</td>
<td><em>23 minutes</em></td>
<td>Witnessing a bank robbery gone awry, misfit 15-year-old Zoe, a girl with supernatural ability to jump back in time and repeat events with up to 10 tries, attempts to stop the crime but only makes things worse with each successive effort. Genre: Speculative fiction, Fantasy</td>
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<td>Watson, Jude</td>
<td><em>Loot: how to steal a fortune</em></td>
<td>When Alfie McQuinn, the notorious jewel thief, is killed on a job, his last words to his son, March, are to &quot;find jewels&quot; and this instruction leads the boy to Jules, the twin sister he never knew he had--and the perfect partner to carry on the family business. Genre: Mystery</td>
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<td>Welch, Jenna Evans</td>
<td><em>Love &amp; Gelato</em></td>
<td>After her mother dies, Lina travels to Italy where she discovers her mother's journal and sets off on an adventure to unearth her mother's secrets. Genre: Romance</td>
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Woollett, Laura  
*Big top burning: the true story of an arsonist, a missing girl, and the greatest show on earth*
Recounts the true story of the 1944 Hartford circus fire, one of the worst fire disasters in U.S. history.
Genre: Nonfiction

Yang, Gene Luen  
*American Born Chinese*
Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture. Presented in graphic novel format.
Genre: Graphic novel

Zusak, Markus  
*The Book Thief*
Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.
Genre: Historical fiction, Holocaust