

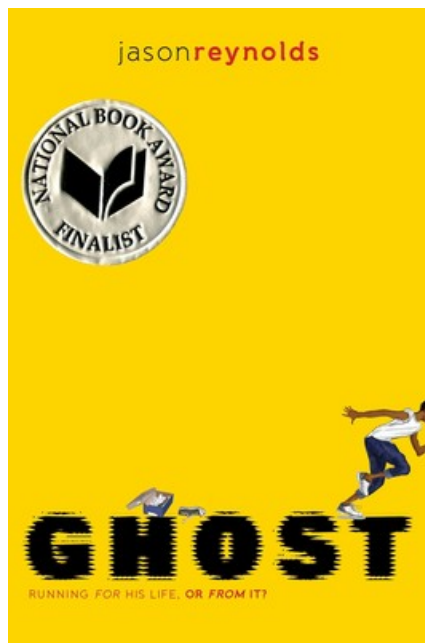
## GISB Summer Reading for Incoming 8th Graders , 2023

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Dear Students,

We are a school of great readers and keeping this pastime up over the summer is an excellent way to support a love of reading, explore new topics, genres and authors, and provide a "reading-bridge" between June and August. Incoming 8th graders are required to read one book but should read as much as possible over the summer break. Browse the bookstore, websites, or the library!

Please read Jason Reynold's *Ghost* for the first day of school. Bring your copy. We'll use this as our first text for discussion when we return so please read closer to August than June to keep it fresh in your mind. You'll be expected to know the plot, characters, major themes, and to have some responses to the overarching question.



**Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.**

**Overarching Question: What challenges us? What brings us happiness?**

**This year we'll learn how to annotate a text:** Underline or highlight character descriptions and vivid passages. Circle interesting or new vocabulary. Note patterns or connections within the book and to other books by writing notes in the margins. For example, are there any symbols that show up throughout the book? Are the sneakers more significant than just being a pair of shoes? Maybe you read about a similar

problem in another book you've read. You can use sticky notes to mark significant pages too. Try to think deeply and widely about the text.

Incoming 8th graders, here is a link to a list of contemporary texts (2022!) as well as some other more classic titles you might enjoy, but remember, the library is a great free resource and browsing the shelves of a bookstore is always nice on a hot day! I'd suggest looking over the lists with an adult or friend to share input as well as reading summaries of titles that interest you.

link:

<https://popgoesthereader.com/most-anticipated/55-most-anticipated-middle-grade-books-january-june-2022/>

Here are some other titles you might like too -only suggested!

*You Know Me Al*, Ring Lardner

*A Few Red Drops*, Claire Hartfield

*The Sword in the Stone* - T.H.White

*Ivanhoe* - Sir Walter Scott

*Langston Hughes*, S. L. Berry

*The Scarlet Pimpernel* - Baroness Emmuska Orczy

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* - Louis Carol *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* - Thornton Wilder

*The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas

*The Caine Mutiny* - Herman Wouk

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*The Count of Monte Cristo* - Alexandre Dumas

*Kidnapped* - Robert Louis Stevenson

*Little Women* - Louisa May Alcott

*For Everyone*, Jason Reynolds

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* - Betty Smith

*Where the Red Fern Grows* - Wilson Rawls

*A Tale of Two Cities* - Charles Dickens

*Dracula* - Bram Stoker

*The Girl from the Tar Paper School*, Teri Kanefield

*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*- Mark Twain

*A Wreath for Emmett Till*, Marilyn Nelson

*My Life and Hard Times*, James Thurber

*The Collected Stories*, Katherine Mansfield

*The Collected Stories*, Eudora Welty

*Kindred*, Octavia E. Butler

*The Hobbit*, J.R.R Tolkein

Have a great summer!