

8th Grade Reading List 2023



Arrango, Andrea B. Iveliz Explains It All, 2022. JFIC

Written in verse, this novel is about Iveliz dealing with mental health problems from recent trauma, which causes her to consistently have problems at school. Iveliz is trying to find her voice amongst all this chaos all while trying to heal.



Barnes, Jennifer L. The Inheritance Games, 2020. TEEN

Avery, a poor high schooler, has her whole life changed when a billionaire named Tobias Hawthorne, whom she has never met, dies and leaves her almost everything he owns. Avery, who is now living in the Hawthorne estate with the privileged and mysterious Hawthorne family, must find out why this happened.



Castellanos, Alexis. Isla to Island, 2022. JGN

Marisol lives a happy, colorful life in Cuba, that is, until Fidel Castro takes control, and her parents decide to send her to the U.S. for safety. Marisol has a hard time fitting in within her new reality, especially since she does not know English. In this wordless graphic novel, watch the colors from the pages wash away, only to flood back after Marisol's experiences.



Cuevas, Mayra. & Marquardt, Marie. Does My Body Offend You? 2022. TEEN

Malena is new to school and is forced by administration to cover up her body. Ruby is a feminist rebel under the wing of her sister, but now that her sister graduated, Ruby does not know if she can still be a voice for women without her. Written in dual point of views, both girls team up as leaders to fight the school's dress code.



Douglas, Ryan. **The Taking of Jake Livingston**, 2021. TEEN

Jake is a medium who can see dead people everywhere and has a hard time fitting in at school. A violent ghost starts to follow Jake and makes him his next target so he can take over Jake's body to cause damage beyond the grave, a far deeper damager than the acts he committed when he was alive.



Galligan, Gale. Freestyle, 2022. JGN

Cory is graduating middle school and wants to make his last year count with his friends before they go their separate ways. They are all a part of a dance crew and decide to do one last competition. However, Cory makes a new friend, who is his tutor and shows him how to do cool tricks with a yoyo, and now he has a hard time balancing everything.



Lucas, Chad. Thanks a Lot, Universe, 2021. JFIC

Brian is dealing with a lot in 7th grade as he and his brother are put into foster care. Ezra, a popular student whom Brian's only friend, sees that Brian is going through a hard time, and he decides to be there for him. Together, their friendship grows and they share parts of themselves they were too afraid to ever do.



Mass, Wendy. Lo and Behold, 2023. JGN

Addie had the perfect life, until her mother gets in a terrible accident and no longer seems the same. Addie and her father go on a business trip where her father is working on a virtual reality project. Addie meets a boy named Mateo, but she has a hard time opening up to him and also gets caught up in losing herself in the virtual reality world.



Quin, Tegan & Quin, Sara. Tegan and Sara: Junior High, 2023. JGN

Identical twins Tegan and Sara are starting junior high at a new school. They have always been close, but they are now in separate classes which has them doing different things. With their relationship on the rocks, they both discover music and try to mend their relationship with each other.



Santat, Dan. A First Time for Everything, 2023. JGN

Dan has a hard time fitting in and does not have much experience beyond his small town. When his parents decide to send him to a 3-week trip to Europe, he isn't all that excited for it. However, Dan finds new experiences on his trip that leads him to potentially finding himself.



Sortino, Anna. Give Me a Sign, 2023. TEEN

17-year-old Lilah is stuck in between, as she was born deaf and has hearing aids that help her hear, and does not feel accepted in either world. Lilah decides to join a summer camp as a counselor to clean up her ASL, and this is where she meets Isaac who helps her, but their friendship might turn into something more.



Thummler, Brenna. Sheets, 2018. TEEN

Marjorie is 13-years-old, and she is trying to keep her parents laundry matt together after her mother passes and her father is busy grieving. Wendell is a ghost that finds himself sticking around the laundry mat after he escapes the land of the ghosts. Wendell's fun and attempt at friendship causes Marjorie to have a hard time as it effects the family business.