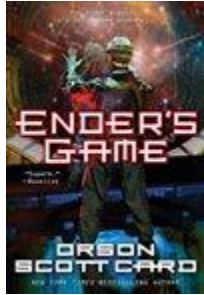


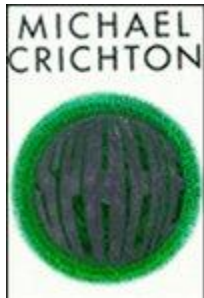
# GRADE 8 FICTION LIST

## List A - Science Fiction



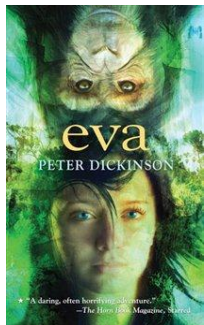
### Orson Scott Card *Ender's Game*

Ender Wiggin, the third in a family of child geniuses, is selected by international military forces to save the world from destruction. Before being chosen Ender wears a unique monitor that allows the heads of the military to see things as Ender does. Ender's brother Peter and his sister Valentine also wore this monitor, although neither was selected. Peter will never forgive Ender for this. Peter hates Ender, and even when the monitor is taken out it does nothing to decrease Peter's anger. The same is true of Ender's schoolmates.



### Michael Crichton *Sphere*

Norman Johnson is a psychologist who is engaged by the United States Navy to join a team of scientists assembled by the U.S. Government to examine an enormous spacecraft discovered on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. The depth of coral covering the craft proves that it has been lying there for over 300 years and so could only be of alien origin.



### Peter Dickinson *Eva*

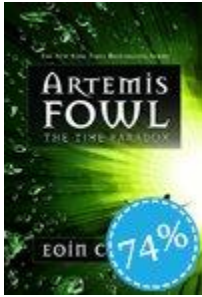
Eva, 13, wakes up in hospital after a horrifying car accident, an eight-month coma, and an astounding medical experiment. She has been given a totally new kind of life. For although her mind and personality are unchanged, her brain is being kept alive in the body of a chimpanzee.



### H. G. Wells *The Time Machine*

An English scientist and gentleman inventor identified by a narrator simply as the Time Traveller, recounts a lecture to his weekly dinner guests that time is simply a fourth dimension, and his demonstration of a tabletop model machine for travelling through it. He reveals that he has built a machine capable of carrying a person, and returns at dinner the following week to recount a remarkable tale, becoming the new narrator:

**List B - Fantasy**



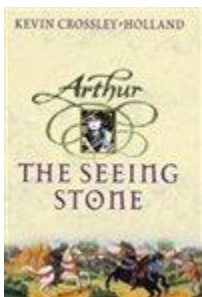
(ELA) **Eoin Colfer** *Artemis Fowl*

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.



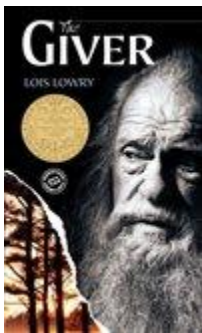
(ELA) **Susan Cooper** *The Dark is Rising*

On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark..



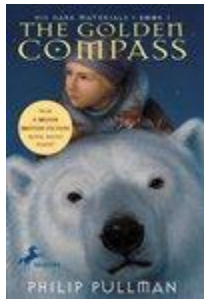
(ELA) **Kevin Crossley-Holland** *The Seeing Stone*

Arthur, a thirteen-year-old boy in late twelfth-century England, is given a piece of Obsidian by his father's friend Merlin. It is a seeing stone, and Arthur begins to see images of his namesake, King Arthur.



(ELA) **Lois Lowry** *The Giver*

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives..



**Philip Pullman *The Golden Compass***

Lyra Belacqua is a precocious orphan growing up within the precincts of Oxford University. But it quickly becomes clear that Lyra's Oxford is not precisely like our own--nor is her world. For one thing, people there each have a personal *daemon*, the manifestation of their souls in animal form. For another, hers is a universe in which science, theology, and magic are closely allied:



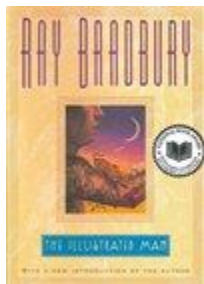
**Stephen King *It***

Moving back and forth between 1958 and 1985, the story tells of seven children in a small Maine town who discover the source of a series of horrifying murders. Having conquered the evil force once, they are summoned together 27 years later when the cycle begins again.



**Anne McCaffrey any one of the *Pern* series**

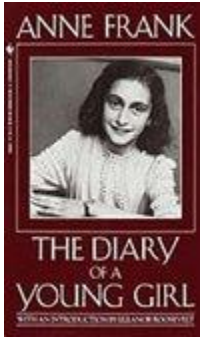
As long as the people of Pern could remember, dragons had fought Thread and kept people alive. Everyone lived in strong stone fortresses or caves because Thread wouldn't eat through stone. However, it had been hundreds of years since Thread had fallen on Pern and there were many who did not like to live behind stone walls, beholden to the Lord of the area and forced into careers that they did not want.



**Ray Bradbury *The Illustrated Man*;**

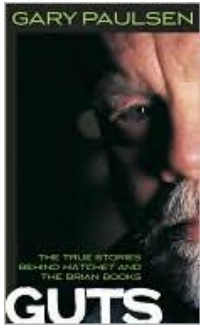
A man is encountered who has skin illustrations all over his body. Each illustration represents a tale from the future. The illustrations come to life and tell a tale of doom or impending doom. In this way ray Bradbury can tell related but different tales in this book. Its Bradbury's writing style and dialogue that holds you as much as the storyline.

## List C: Autobiography



### Anne Frank *The Diary of A Young Girl*

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank is an inspirational story of the hardships of World War II in the viewpoint of a 13 year old Jewish girl in hiding during The Holocaust. In her diary, Anne shares her thoughts, feelings and insights about the many issues and conflicts in the warehouse where her own family and another family hid for two years.



### Gary Paulsen *Guts*

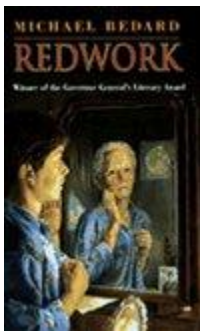
For fans of the Brian and Hatchet books this recounting of the real events that inspired these stories will be fascinating. Paulsen shares stories from his own life's adventures, which have not yet been found in a book. Don't miss the chapter called, "Eating eyeballs and guts or starving: the fine art of wilderness nutrition."



### Christy Jordan-Fenton *Fatty legs*

A young Inuit Margaret Pokiak desperately wants to attend one of the church-run schools in the Canadian arctic. Her desire to learn the magic of reading compels her to leave her familiar way of life. At school Margaret encounters the Raven, a black-cloaked nun with bony fingers that resemble claws. She dislikes the strong-willed young Margaret. To humiliate her, Raven gives gray stockings to all the girls -- all except Margaret, who gets red ones. In an instant Margaret is the laughingstock of the entire school.

## List D - Mystery and Suspense



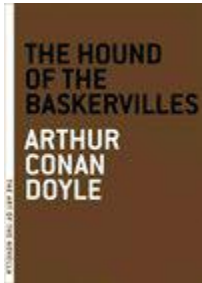
### ELA) Michael Bedard *Redwork*

Teenage Cass feels an inescapable psychic link with his incredibly old landlord Mr. Magus, whose secret experiments in the garage reflect his preoccupation with finding the wholeness of life.



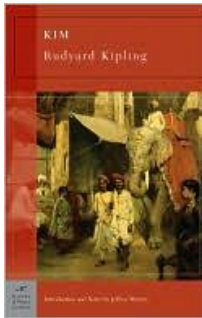
### **Agatha Christie *Murder On The Orient Express***

On a luxury train filled to capacity, a murder happens that is not entirely unpredictable, although the solution to the baffling murder certainly is. A snowdrift has stopped the train, and while the passengers wait for the track to be cleared, Christie's little Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, goes to work and finds the improbable solution to the mystery.



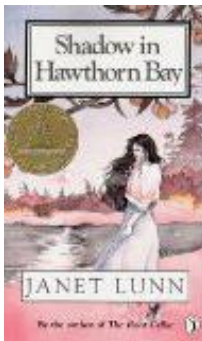
### **Arthur Conan Doyle *Hound Of The Baskervilles***

It was a brave man who would cross the Devon moorlands in darkness. For the ancient legend of the hound of the Baskervilles had persisted in family history for generations. It was Sir Charles's mysterious death in the grounds of Baskerville Hall that brought Sherlock Holmes to the scene.



### **Rudyard Kipling *Kim***

Kimball O'Hara grows up an orphan in the walled city of Lahore, India. Deeply devoted to an old Tibetan lama but involved in a secret mission for the British, Kim struggles to weave the strands of his life into a single pattern. Charged with action and suspense, yet profoundly spiritual, *Kim* vividly expresses the sounds and smells, colors and characters, opulence and squalor of complex, contradictory India under British rule.



### **(ELA) Janet Lunn *Shadow in Hawthorn Bay***

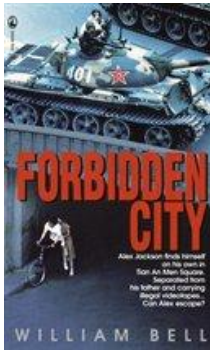
When fifteen-year-old Mary journeys from Scotland to Canada in search of her cousin, she makes a tragic discovery and alienates the townsfolk who fear her psychic powers

## List E - Social Issues



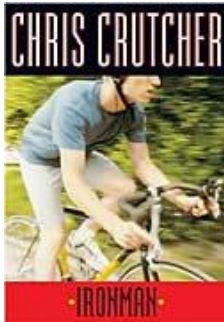
### Elizabeth Alder *The King's Shadow*

Evyn, a young Welsh serf, has dreamed all his life of becoming a storyteller. But in a cruel twist of fate, Evyn and his father suffer a brutal attack by a group of murderous ruffians. Evyn's tongue is cut off and his father is killed. Orphaned and unable to speak, Evyn assumes he is destined to a life of slavery. But Evyn is resilient and teaches himself to read and write. He is then appointed the personal companion to Earl Harold of Wessex, who later becomes the King of England. The two travel the countryside together, forming a close father-son bond.



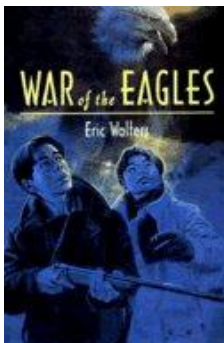
### William Bell *Forbidden City*

"Lau Xu spun around, his arms flung skyward. Before he fell the AK 47 spit flame again and the burst blew Lao Xu off his feet. His body slammed to the pavement, one leg caught under him, arms flung wide, his head twisted at an impossible angle. His blood began to run onto the road, a dark stream in the red life. Frozen, I stared at his still form. The thunder roared again. Someone beside me fell to the sidewalk. Someone fell against me, knocking me heavily to the ground on my back. Someone fell across my body, her head on my chest, facing me. ... I shrieked and struggled, pushing her slack body away as other bodies fell around me."



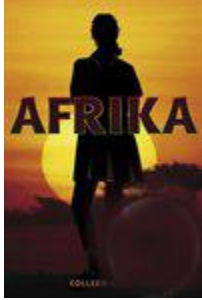
### Chris Crutcher *Ironman*

Although slow to accept his placement in an anger-management class, triathlete Bo Brewster learns to control and develop his emotional strength. Powerful, perceptive, and wickedly funny.



### Eric Walters *War of the Eagles*

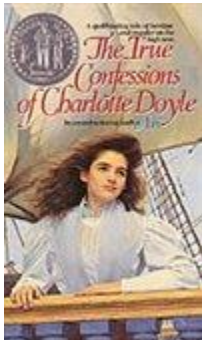
14-year-old Jed is a proud Canadian, the son of a British fighter pilot and a Tsimshian Indian, he has every reason to be proud of his heritage. But when World War 2 comes about, and his best friend Tadashi, a Japanese Canadian, is interned, Jed begins to question his heritage and his country.



**Colleen Craig *Afrika***

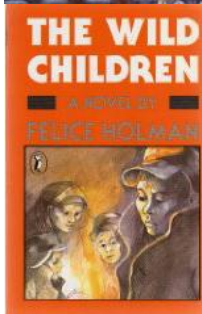
For thirteen-year-old Kim, travel to South Africa with her journalist mother will mark the end of her childhood and the beginning of a remarkable journey as the Truth and Reconciliation Hearings in the post-apartheid South Africa open her eyes to the tragedy and brutality of its segregationist policies. Kim finds that she is not as removed from this powerful story as she thought. There are not many books about second generation Canadians returning to their parents' homeland and discovering their roots. This also shows a very different side and degree of racism.

**List F- Historical Fiction**



**(ELA) Avi *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, thirteen-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.



**Felice Holman *The Wild Children***

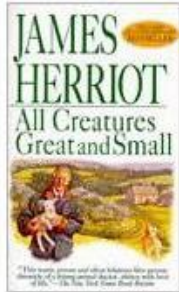
Left behind when his whole family is arrested by soldiers during the dark days following the Bolshevik Revolution, twelve-year-old Alex falls in with a gang of other desperate homeless children, but never loses his hope for a better life.

## List G - Humour



### **Douglas Adams** *A Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy*

...in which Arthur Dent is introduced to the galaxy at large when he is rescued by alien friend and intrepid pal Ford Prefect seconds before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction



### **James Herriot** *All Creatures Great And Small*; (or any other of his Vet books)

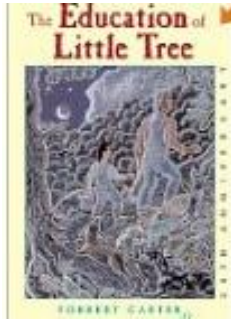
James Herriot is a vet in Yorkshire, England, during the 1940's. He is assigned to the practice of Siegfried Farnon, who (together with his mischievous brother Tristan) already have a successful business. James undergoes a variety of adventures during his work, which are just as often caused by the characters of the county (including the Farnon brothers) as the animals in his care.



### **Richard Scrimger** *Into the Ravine*

In the tar-melting heat of a suburban summer, 13year-old athletic Jules, handsome Chris, and oddball Corey (he laughs at gravel and anticipates zombie attacks) have lived side by side for most of their lives. Behind their backyards is a ravine through which flows a modest river. When a tornado brings down a big maple tree, the boys make a raft of the branches and set off downstream.

## List H – General Young Adult Fiction



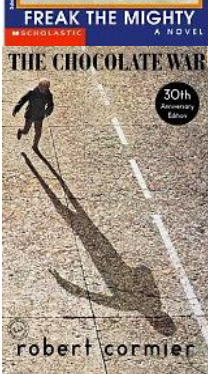
### **Forrest Carter *Education of Little Tree***

A young orphan boy is adopted by his Cherokee grandmother and half-Cherokee grandfather in the Appalachian mountains of Tennessee during the Great Depression. "Little Tree" is shown how to hunt and survive in the mountains and to respect nature in the Cherokee Way. Little Tree also learns the often callous ways of white businessmen and tax collectors, and how Granpa, in hilarious vignettes, scares them away from his illegal attempts to enter the cash economy. When Little Tree is taken away by whites for schooling, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children in an attempt to assimilate them and of Little Tree's perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee Way.



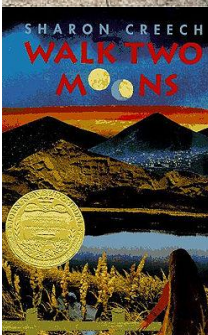
### **(ELA) Rodman Philbrick *Freak the Mighty***

Maxwell Kane is a lumbering eighth grader who has lived with his grandparents ever since his father was imprisoned for murdering his mother. Mean-spirited schoolmates and special ed. Leave him unprepared for a friendship with Kevin, aka Freak, a genius with a serious birth defect. Max is uplifted by Freak's imagination and booming confidence, while Freak gets a literal boost onto Max's shoulders. Together they become Freak the Mighty, an invincible duo



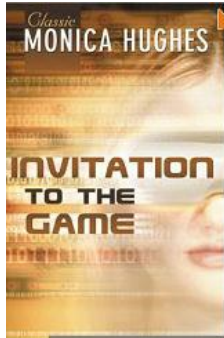
### **Robert Cormier *The Chocolate War***

You wouldn't think that Jerry Renault's refusal to sell chocolates during his school's fundraiser would create such a stir, but it does; it's as if the whole school comes apart at the seams. To some, Jerry is a hero, but to others, he becomes a scapegoat--a target for their pent-up hatred. And Jerry? He's just trying to stand up for what he believes, but perhaps there is no way for him to escape becoming a pawn in this game of control; students are pitted against other students, fighting for honor--or are they fighting for their lives?



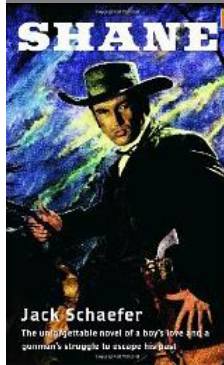
### **(ELA) Sharon Creech *Walk Two Moons***

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.



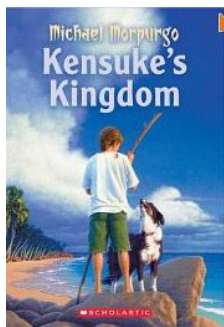
(ELA) **Monica Hughes** *Invitation to the Game*

Unemployed after high school in the highly robotic society of 2154, Lisse and seven friends resign themselves to a boring existence in their "Designated Area" until the government invites them to play The Game.



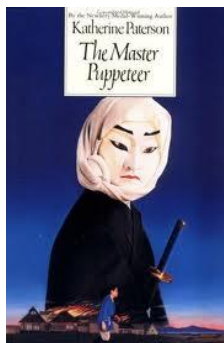
(ELA) **Jack Schaefer** *Shane*

In the summer of 1889, a mysterious and charismatic man rides into a small Wyoming valley, where he joins homesteaders who take a stand against a bullying cattle rancher, and where he changes the lives of a young boy and his parents.



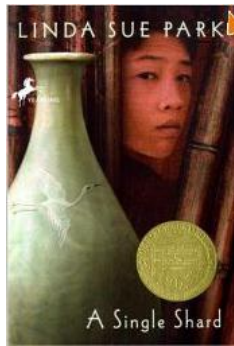
(ELA) **Michael Morpurgo** *Kensuke's Kingdom*

When young Michael falls overboard from his parents' sailboat, he ends up on a Pacific island, rescued by Kensuke, an old Japanese man who supplies him with food and water, but from a distance. Although Kensuke's broken English makes him sound uneducated, he was a doctor before he became stranded on the island at the end of World War II. He and Michael eventually forge a friendship in which Kensuke teaches the boy both survival skills and Japanese painting.



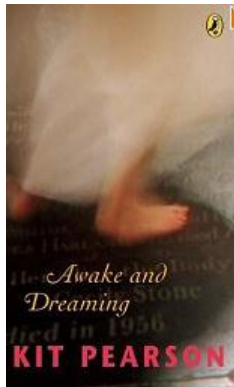
(ELA) **Katherine Paterson** *The Master Puppeteer*

A window into the exciting world of feudal Japan, *The Master Puppeteer* is an engaging mystery story involving a Robin Hood-like outlaw called Saburo, who has developed ingenious methods of stealing from the rich and eluding and embarrassing the authorities. The suspense builds around the persistent questions of when and where the mysterious Saburo will strike, and who he is.



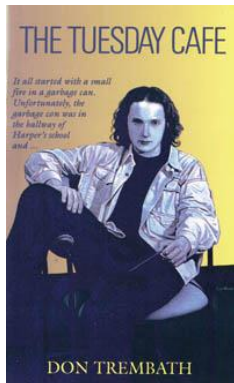
(ELA) **Linda Sue Park** *A Single Shard*

A single shard from a celadon vase changes the life of a young boy and his master. In 12th-century Korea, the village of Ch'ulp'o is famous for its pottery. The orphan Tree-ear spends his days foraging for food for himself and Crane-man, a lame straw weaver who has cared for him for many years. Because of his wanderings, Tree-ear is familiar with all of the potters in the village, but he is especially drawn to Min. When he drops a piece Min has made, Tree-ear begins to work for him to pay off his debt, but stays on after the debt is paid because he longs to learn to create beautiful pots himself.



**Kit Pearson** *Awake and Dreaming* (or any other Pearson novel)

Nine-year-old Theo desperately wants to be out of her gray, loveless existence and into the middle of a large and happy family like the ones she reads about in her wonderful library books. On the ferry to Victoria to live with her aunt, Theo makes a wish on the new moon and is amazed when it comes true. She wakes up as part of the perfect family. Now she doesn't have to dance for money on the street or worry that her mother doesn't want her. Of course it is too good to be true; the magic doesn't last. While her real life isn't perfect like when she was "awake and dreaming," things are changing for the better and Theo is learning to be happy.



(ELA) **Don Trembath** *The Tuesday Café*

After setting fire to a garbage can, Harper is ordered to write an essay on how he plans to turn his life around. His mother enrolls him in a writing class, but it's not the kind of class he expected.