Summer Reading for Incoming 8th Graders

All students entering 8th grade for the 2017-2018 school year are required to read two (2) books during the summer, one book from the list below and one self-selected book.

*Both summer reading books will be assessed upon returning to school in September. Students should be familiar with the elements of plot (setting, characters, theme, conflict, climax, resolution.).

*A story map is provided at this link to help prepare students for the assessment. This map is a reference for students, NOT a paper that must be turned in to their teachers.

**Book 1—Select one of the following books:**

**Bystander**
*Author: Preller, James*
Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with - and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: he's a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander... to the bully's next victim.

**Backlash**
*Author: Sarah Darer Littman*
Lara just got told off on Facebook. She thought that Christian liked her, that he was finally going to ask her to his school's homecoming dance. They've been talking online for weeks, so what's with the sudden change? And where does he get off saying horrible things on her wall? Even worse - are they true? As online life collides with real life, things spiral out of control, and not just for Lara. Because when the truth starts to come together, the backlash is even more devastating than anyone could have ever imagined.

**The Truth About Truman School**
*Author: Dori Hillestad Butler*
When Zebby and Amr create the website thetruthabouttruman.com, they want it to be honest. They want it to be about the real Truman Middle School, to say things that the school newspaper would never say, and to give everyone a chance to say what they want to say, too. But given the chance, some people will say anything—anything to hurt someone else. And when rumors about one popular student escalate to cruel new levels, it's clear the truth about Truman School is more harrowing than anyone ever imagined.
The Bully Book
Author: Eric Kahn Gale
Eric Haskins, the new sixth-grade bully target, is searching for answers. And unlike many of us who experienced something awful growing up, he finds them. Though they may not be what he expected.
When the author was eleven, he was bullied. This book is loosely based on incidents that happened to the author in sixth grade.

Faceless
Author: Alyssa B. Sheinmel
When Maisie Winters wakes up, she’s in the hospital. The last thing she remembers is running through the hills of her neighborhood one misty morning. Slowly, she puts the pieces together. Before she could make it home, a storm gathered. Lightning hit a power line and sparks rained down, the hot-burning electrical fire consuming her, destroying her face. Where her nose, cheeks, and chin used to be, now there is...nothing.
Maisie’s lucky enough to qualify for a rare medical treatment: a face transplant. At least, everyone says she’s lucky. But with someone else’s features staring back at her in the mirror, Maisie looks—and feels—like a stranger. The doctors promised that the transplant was her chance to live a normal life again, but nothing feels normal anymore. Before, she knew who she was—a regular girl who ran track and got good grades, who loved her boyfriend and her best friend. Now, she can’t even recognize herself.

Book 2- Self-selected book (grade/reading level appropriate)
Check out https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/teen for some great suggestions!