

**Rising Eighth Grade Students 2005**  
**Summary of Summer Reading Novels**

<p><i>Stargirl</i> by Jerry Spinelli</p>	<p>Stargirl Caraway, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Arizona's High School, who wears pioneer dresses and kimonos to school, strums a ukulele in the cafeteria, laughs when there are no jokes, and dances when there is no music. She stuns the whole school.</p>
<p><i>Zach's Lie</i> by Roland Smith</p>	<p>When Zach is befriended by the school's custodian, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move to Nevada after entering the Witness Security Program, but the drug cartel, against which his father will testify, is determined to find them.</p>
<p><i>Gifted Hands</i> by Ben Carson</p>	<p>This inspiring autobiography tells of a frustrated inner-city kid whose hard work, determination, and faith helped him become director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at John Hopkins University Hospital.</p>
<p><i>The House of Scorpion</i> by Nancy Farmer</p>	<p>To most people around him, Matteo is not a boy, but a beast. A room full of chicken litter with roaches for friends and old chicken bones for toys is considered good enough for him. Matt is a guarantee of eternal life.</p>
<p><i>Running Out of Time</i> by Margaret Haddix</p>	<p>This book is about a girl named Jessie who lives in Clifton, Indiana in the 1840's or so she's told. However, the adults in Clifton know the secret. Diphtheria breaks out and Jessie has to escape into the real world before time runs out. Jessie finds herself in more danger than she could imagine.</p>
<p><i>Slakes Limbo</i> by Felice Holman</p>	<p>Aremis Slake, unloved and neglected, runs away to live in the subway tunnels. Slake is ingenious in the way he learns to survive the urban terrain without parents.</p>
<p><i>Touching Spirit Bear</i> by Ben Mikaelson</p>	<p>After his anger erupts into violence, Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life.</p>
<p><i>The Young Landlords</i> by Walter Dean Myers</p>	<p>Led by the very bright Paul Williams, a group of teens complained to an absentee landlord about a run-down neglected apartment building in their neighborhood. Before they knew it, they were the owners of the building, which cost them \$1.00. They soon discovered the bizarre behavior of the tenants.</p>