

## SUMMER READING 2026! You know you love it!

To prepare you for 8th grade and to maintain your reading level, you will be reading a historical fiction novel based on World War II called ***The War That Saved My Life*** by **Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** over summer break. In 8th grade history, you will cover World War II as well as complete a research project based on some aspect of that war, so this will give you a reference point for the era. You are welcome to purchase your own copy or check it out from one of our local libraries. The book is available to purchase on the Amazon or the Barnes and Noble websites or for in-store pick up after ordering at B & N. If you would like to pair up with a friend to use the same book, you are certainly allowed to do so. If you prefer, you can listen to the book by way of a number of audio sites, but I recommend that you follow along with the text as you listen.

There are three assignments that will be required of you after reading the book:

1. **DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.** Make a list of 10 characters from this book and **describe** them well. Jotting down character names as you read is highly recommended. Your list is due the first day of school when we return in August, and you should use an MLA heading as listed below; your list may be typed or hand-written. Your new English teacher will send you an email reminding you of the assignment shortly before school starts.
2. You will take an objective test on the content of the book during the first few days of school. Activities will dictate when this test will occur, so it is important that you have the book read on the first day of class.
3. **THIS ASSIGNMENT IS TO BE DONE IN CLASS AFTER SCHOOL BEGINS.** You will write an essay **AFTER** school starts as directed by your new teacher. **Please do not write this ahead of time.** This will be your first major grade in 8th grade English, so do not neglect to read the book.

MLA Style Heading:

Susie Student (first and last name)

English 8

Character List for *The War That Saved My Life*

13 August 2026

We hope you enjoy the novel; it is quite well written and easy to read, but will accomplish the goal of keeping your reading skills sharp. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask me in class before the end of the year.