

## **8th Grade Summer Reading 2025-26**

*The Impossible Knife of Memory* by Laurie Halse Anderson

It may be purchased on Amazon using this [link](#):

### **Summer Assignment:**

Attached is some background information about PTSD and how it affects people's lives.

1. Read the information before starting to read the book.
2. While reading the book, identify behaviors that illustrate each of the four *clues* to some behaviors of a person living with PTSD.
3. Provide **3 quotes for each behavior**, and **include the page #** from which the quote was taken.
4. All work must be typed and on hard copy.
5. Use the following heading:

Name  
Date  
English 8

**In addition to the novel, students will be responsible for a list of vocabulary words and will be tested upon their return to school.**

The list is attached here: [8th Grade Vocabulary List](#)

## **Understanding PTSD**

### **What is PTSD?**

PTSD is a short name for post-traumatic stress disorder. PTSD includes upsetting thoughts, feelings, and behaviors some people have for a long time after bad or scary things happen to them or when they see something bad or scary. Sometimes service members, firefighters, and police officers experience scary things while doing their jobs to help keep us safe. As a result, they may develop PTSD. But PTSD can happen to anybody. It can happen to kids, teenagers, moms, dads, and other grown-ups who have very scary experiences. PTSD can result from experiencing big storms like tornadoes, bad car accidents, getting hurt by others, getting touched in bad ways, or other scary situations. It's important to know even after a scary situation, most people do not develop PTSD.

### **What does PTSD look and sound like?**

Everybody sometimes feels mad, sad, scared, or worried. We can all get angry, argue, and yell at times. But when somebody is angry for a long period of time, overreacts to "triggers" or reminders of bad things that happened, or disconnects from other people because of how badly they feel, it is more likely they are suffering from PTSD. Doctors are trained to identify and treat PTSD. And the good news is PTSD is treatable and people can feel better after receiving treatment.

### **Here are some clues:**

#### **Does the person:**

1. Look mad, scared, sad or worried a lot of the time?
2. Get annoyed or upset over simple things?
3. Stare into space or lay down a lot of the time?
4. Not want to do things or go places they used to?

People don't want to have PTSD. But because their mind is hurting, loud sounds can bring bad memories to these people. Even normal sounds of playing or talking might upset the person with PTSD. Surprises can also bring back bad memories. Lots of different things (even simple things) can bring back bad memories and can make people feel their PTSD even more. We call those things triggers.

## 8th Grade Vocabulary List

<b>obscure</b>	adj / verb	<b>Adj:</b> Unclear or hard to understand. <b>Verb:</b> To hide or make unclear.
<b>irrelevant</b>	adjective	Not related or important to the topic.
<b>illustrate</b>	verb	To explain something using examples or pictures.
<b>intention</b>	noun	A plan or aim; what someone means to do.
<b>relevance</b>	noun	How closely something is related to the topic.
<b>genre</b>	noun	A category or type (ie:of books, movies, or music).
<b>articulate</b>	verb / adjective	<b>Verb:</b> To speak clearly. <b>Adj:</b> Able to express ideas clearly.
<b>clarify</b>	verb	To make something easier to understand.
<b>deter</b>	verb	To stop someone from doing something by making them afraid or unsure.
<b>perspective</b>	noun	A point of view or way of looking at something.
<b>spontaneous</b>	adjective	Done suddenly without planning.
<b>summarize</b>	verb	To give a short version with only the main points.
<b>paraphrase</b>	verb / noun	<b>Verb:</b> To restate in your own words. <b>Noun:</b> A rewording of something.
<b>context</b>	noun	The background or setting of an idea or event.
<b>significance</b>	noun	The importance or meaning of something.
<b>transition</b>	noun / verb	<b>Noun:</b> A change or move from one thing to another. <b>Verb:</b> To move from one stage or idea to another.
<b>revise</b>	verb	To change or improve something.
<b>differentiate</b>	verb	To show how things are different.
<b>interpret</b>	verb	To explain the meaning of something.

<b>emphasis</b>	noun	Special importance or focus placed on something.
<b>motivation</b>	noun	The reason why someone does something.
<b>analogy</b>	noun	A comparison showing how two things are alike in some way.
<b>figurative</b>	adjective	Using words in a creative or non-literal way.
<b>conflict</b>	noun / verb	<b>Noun:</b> A struggle between opposing forces. <b>Verb:</b> To disagree or clash.
<b>coherence</b>	noun	The quality of being clear and logical.
<b>validity</b>	noun	The truth or soundness of something.
<b>objective</b>	noun / adjective	<b>Noun:</b> A goal. <b>Adj:</b> Based on facts, not feelings.
<b>enhance</b>	verb	To improve or make better.
<b>crucial</b>	adjective	Extremely important or necessary.
<b>critical</b>	adjective	Very important or involving careful judgment.
<b>underlying</b>	adjective	Basic or hidden but important.
<b>convey</b>	verb	To communicate or express something.
<b>symbolic</b>	adjective	Representing something else.
<b>metaphor</b>	noun	A comparison that says one thing is another to show similarity.
<b>abstract</b>	adjective / noun	<b>Adj:</b> Not concrete or physical. <b>Noun:</b> An idea or thought that isn't physical.
<b>infer</b>	verb	To figure something out using clues and reasoning.
<b>concrete</b>	adjective / noun	<b>Adj:</b> Real and solid. <b>Noun:</b> A hard building material.
<b>substantiate</b>	verb	To prove or give evidence for something.
<b>interpretation</b>	noun	An explanation or understanding of something.
<b>impact</b>	noun / verb	<b>Noun:</b> A strong effect. <b>Verb:</b> To strongly affect something.

<b>plagiarism</b>	noun	Copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
<b>prologue</b>	noun	An introduction to a book or play.
<b>epilogue</b>	noun	A section at the end of a book or play that gives extra information.
<b>suggest</b>	verb	To offer an idea or advice.
<b>hypothesis</b>	noun	A testable guess or idea based on facts.
<b>cite</b>	verb	To mention the source of information.
<b>indicate</b>	verb	To show or point something out.
<b>acquire</b>	verb	To get or gain something.
<b>imply</b>	verb	To suggest something without saying it directly.

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