

Seventh Grade Summer Reading

All rising 7th graders are required to read at least TWO books (one FICTION & one NONFICTION) this summer. Consider choosing your books from this list, **OR** find two books of comparable Lexile level, complexity, and length to read.

As you read your FICTION text, make sure you are prepared to complete in-class assignments by highlighting and making notes in the book. Relevant notes may include information about setting, conflict(s), characters, character interactions, plot development, and big ideas (themes).

As you read your NONFICTION text, make sure you are prepared to complete in-class assignments by noting historical context, relevant people, any research or significant data points, and main ideas.

*All books were vetted through Common Sense Media.

CLASSICS

The Sword in the Stone by T.H. White

ISBN: 978-0399225024

Before there was a famous king named Arthur, there was a curious boy named Wart and a kind, old wizard named Merlyn. Transformed by Merlyn into the forms of his fantasy, Wart learns the value of history from a snake, of education from a badger, and of courage from a hawk—the lessons that help turn a boy into a man. Together, Wart and Merlyn take the reader through this timeless story of childhood and adventure.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

ISBN: 978-0486275598

Treasure Island spins a heady tale of piracy, a mysterious treasure map, and a host of sinister characters charged with diabolical intentions. Seen through the eyes of Jim Hawkins, the cabin boy of *The Hispaniola*, the action-packed adventure tells of a perilous sea journey across the Spanish Main, a mutiny led by the infamous Long John Silver, and a lethal scramble for buried treasure on an exotic isle.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

ISBN: 978-0451528834

Mary Lennox finds a mysterious walled-in garden that has been locked securely for years on the grounds of Misselthwaite, her Uncle Archibald's estate. With the help of Dickon Sowerby, a young local boy who can charm animals, Mary cultivates the garden and the experience both improves her health and raises her spirits. Ultimately, the secret garden proves beneficial to both Mary and her sickly cousin Colin, whom her estranged uncle has locked away in solitude following the death of his beloved wife, Colin's mother. Nurtured with love and tenderness, the secret garden proves it has the power to heal the heart.

REALISTIC/COMING OF AGE FICTION

The Unteachables by Gordon Korman

ISBN: 978-0062563880

The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks, and they have been removed from the student body and isolated in Room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. He was once a rising star, but his career was shattered by a cheating scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning it in, he is finally one year away from early retirement. However, the superintendent has his own plans to torpedo that idea, and it involves assigning Mr. Kermit to the Unteachables. The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they did, and Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year, Room 117 experiences mayhem, destruction, and a shot at redemption.

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

ISBN: 978-0803738553

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy; although Willow is extraordinarily odd, she is extraordinarily endearing, and she manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

ISBN: 978-0689838583

August 1793. Fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook is ambitious, adventurous, and sick to death of listening to her mother. Mattie has plans of her own. She wants to turn the Cook Coffeehouse into the finest business in Philadelphia, the capital of the new United States, but the waterfront is abuzz with reports of disease. "Fever" spreads from the docks and creeps toward Mattie's home, threatening everything she holds dear. As the cemeteries fill with fever victims, fear turns to panic, and thousands flee the city. Then tragedy strikes the coffeehouse, and Mattie is trapped in a living nightmare. Suddenly, her struggle to build a better life must give way to something even more important—the fight to stay alive.

***The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* by John Boyne**

ISBN: 978-1627790307

In 1936, Pierrot Fischer is orphaned in Paris, and World War II is quickly approaching. After the deaths of his parents, Pierrot's life is turned upside down as he finds himself traveling alone by train from Paris to Austria to live with an aunt he has never met in a home he has never visited. Pierrot soon learns that his German aunt is a housekeeper at Berghof, one of Adolf Hitler's houses, and Pierrot's name is changed to Pieter to reflect his new home in Germany. Suddenly, Pierrot finds himself living in a dangerous new world full of darkness that he doesn't understand. As he is thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world—a world of terror, secrets, and betrayal—will Pierrot maintain his innocence? Or will he, like so many others, find himself transformed?

SCI-FI and FANTASY

Timeless: Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic

ISBN: 978-0062402363

You've never seen Earth like this before: continents reshaped, oceans re-formed, cities rebuilt, and mountains sculpted anew. Dinosaurs roam the plains alongside herds of buffalo, and giant robots navigate the same waters as steam-powered ships.

This is the world Diego Ribera was born into. The past, present, and future coexisting together. In New Chicago, Diego's middle school hallways buzz with kids from all eras of history and from cultures all over the world. The pieces do not always fit together neatly, but this is the world he loves. There are those, however, who do not share his affection. On his thirteenth birthday, Diego learns of a special gift he has within, a secret that is part of something much bigger—something he cannot understand. When his father, New Chicago's top engineer, is taken by the Aeternum, Diego must rescue him and prevent this evil group from disrupting the fragile peace humanity has forged.

MYSTERY

***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor**

(2018 National Book Award Finalist)

ISBN: 978-0062491435

Mason Buttle is the sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny.

***One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake**

(2014 Newbery Honor Book)

ISBN: 978-0375869259

Georgie Burkhardt knows that the unidentifiable body buried in the family plot is not that of her older sister, Agatha, who recently ran away. In the adventurous historical novel, *One Came Home*, based on two actual events in Wisconsin in 1871, the spunky 13-year-old heroine sets out to find her sister. She prepares for the trip with advice from Randolph B. Marcy's *The Prairie Traveler*, a few gold dollars and a Springfield single-shot rifle, and is surprised when Billy McCabe, Agatha's unrequited love interest, shows up to accompany her. She will track every last clue and shred of evidence to bring Agatha home. Yet even with resolute determination and her trusty Springfield singleshot, Georgie is not prepared for what she faces on the Western Frontier.

NONFICTION

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition

ISBN: 978-0803740808

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world.

***Hidden Figures (Young Readers Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly** ISBN: 978-0062662385

Before John Glenn orbited the earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This is the powerful story of four African American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.