

7th Grade Reading List for Summer 2014

All students are encouraged to read throughout the summer. Please keep a log of all that you read! You can download the 7th Grade Summer Reading Log from the library website, or create a journal of your own. **Students entering 7th grade are to read at least 3 books:**

1. In preparation for the Sprout Creek Farm outdoor Ed trip, please read the following book:

Michael Pollan . *The Omnivore's Dilemma: The Secrets Behind What You Eat, Young Readers Edition.*

2. Choose 2 more books to read: at least one should be from the following list:

Ahmedi, Farah. *The Other Side of the Sky: a Memoir.* - Farah Ahmedi, the victim of a land mine when she was just twelve years old, tells about her childhood in Afghanistan, a country trapped in war her entire life, and discusses the challenges she has faced as a result of losing her leg, and in trying to adapt to living in the United States.

Allen, Thomas B. *George Washington, Spymaster: How America Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War.* - A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793.* - In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World.* - Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Avi. *The Man Who Was Poe.* - In Providence, R.I., in 1848, Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven-year-old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly final twist.

Bauer, Joan. *Hope Was Here.* - When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Boyce, Frank. *Cosmic* - Liam is a twelve-year-old kid who looks like he's about thirty. Sometimes it's not so bad, like when his new principal mistakes him for a teacher on the first day of school. But mostly it's just frustrating, being a kid trapped in an adult world, so he

decides to flip things around. Liam cons his way onto the first spaceship to take civilians into space!

Brooks, Bruce. *The Moves Make the Man*. - Jerome likes to think he can handle anything. He handled growing up without a father. He handled being the first black kid in school. And he sure can handle a basketball. Then Jerome meets Bix, a white boy who is mysterious and moody, but a great athlete. So Jerome decides to teach Bix his game. He can tell that Bix has the talent. All he's got to do is learn the right moves.... (a Newbery honor book)

Cashore, Kristin. *Graceling*. - In a world where some people are born with extreme and often-feared skills called Graces, Katsa struggles for redemption from her own horrifying Grace of killing and teams up with another young fighter to save their land from a corrupt king.

Cleaver, Vera. *Where the Lilies Bloom*. - In the Great Smoky Mountains region, a fourteen-year-old girl struggles to keep her family together after their father dies.

Collier, James. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. - Powerful story of two brothers caught in the American Revolution.

Creech, Sharon. *Wanderer*. - Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

Cumming, Priscilla. *Red Kayak*. - Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*. - After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

Freedman, Russell. *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. - When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man, a movement was set in motion that led to other nonviolent boycotts, marches, and walks--resulting in the civil rights movement and major social changes throughout the nation.

Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart (series)*. - Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Gaiman, Neil, McKean, Dave – *The Graveyard Book*. Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place—he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the antiquated customs of

his guardians' time. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? And then there are beings such as ghouls that aren't really one thing or the other. (A Newbery award winner.)

Hale, Shannon. *Book of a Thousand Days.* - Fifteen-year-old Dashti, sworn to obey her sixteen-year-old mistress, the Lady Saren, shares Saren's years of punishment locked in a tower, then brings her safely to the lands of her true love, where both must hide who they are as they work as kitchen maids.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.* - During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

Howe, James. *The Misfits.* - Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

Kielburger, Craig. *Free the Children: a Young Man Fights Against Child Labor and Proves That Children Can Change the World.* - Chronicles the efforts of twelve-year-old Craig Kielburger and his human rights organization Free the Children to stop child labor in foreign countries.

Kurtz, Jane. *The Storyteller's Beads.* - During the political strife and famine of the 1980's, two Ethiopian girls, one Christian and the other Jewish and blind, struggle to overcome many difficulties, including their prejudices about each other, as they make the dangerous journey out of Ethiopia.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night.* - When Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance. Or, *Fairest.* - In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent; meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.

London, Jack. *White Fang.* - The adventures in the northern wilderness of a dog that is part wolf and how he comes to make his peace with man. Or, *The Call of the Wild.* - Buck, who is half St. Bernard and half Scotch shepherd, is abducted and taken to the Klondike where he reverts to the wild and becomes a leader of a pack of wolves. Or any book by the author.

Lowry, Lois. *Gathering Blue.* - Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

Lupica, Mike. *The Big Field*. - When young baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.

Mass, Wendy. *A Mango-Shaped Space*. - Afraid that she is crazy, thirteen-year-old Mia, who sees a special color with every letter, number, and sound, keeps this a secret until she becomes overwhelmed by school, changing relationships, and the death of her beloved cat, Mango.

Murphy, Jim. *A Young Patriot: The American Revolution As Experienced By One Boy*. Joseph Plumb Martin, who enlisted in the summer of 1776 at the age of fifteen, details key battles and the life of a soldier during the American Revolution in this memoir retold by Jim Murphy.

O'Brien, Robert C. *Z for Zachariah*. - Seemingly the only person left alive after a nuclear war, a sixteen-year-old girl is relieved to see a man arrive into her valley until she realizes that he is a tyrant and she must somehow escape.

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*. - Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

Rinaldi, Ann. *A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials*. - While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. - During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in. In the sequel, *Okay for Now*, it tells Doug Swietich's seventh-grade year in 1960s Upstate New York. We first met Doug as the troublemaker in *The Wednesday Wars*. We are fortunate to get to know him better in this deeply moving, funny novel.

Shulman, Polly. *The Grimm Legacy*. - New York high school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository," and when she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*. In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. Sequel: *Love, Stargirl*.

Staples, Suzanne. *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*. When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes.

Steinbeck, John. *The Pearl*. - Terrible events follow the discovery of a magnificent pearl by a poor Mexican fisherman.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream*. - Presents the story of the thirteen women connected with NASA's Mercury 13 space mission, who braved prejudice and jealousy to make their mark and open the door for the female pilots and space commanders that would soon follow.

Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon over Manifest*. - Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. (2011 Newbery medal Winner.)

Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It*. After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada to New York to find out who she is.