

May 2020

Dear incoming 7th Graders and 7th Grade Parents,

Summer is upon us, and it is time to present the 7th Grade Summer Reading List for the 2020-2021 school year. Many books were considered for this year's list, and we think we've chosen some of the best reads out there for young adults. The book lists highlight a variety of genres and reading levels in order to meet the individual interests and needs of your students. Let the page turning begin!



Students are asked to read **3 books** during the summer, although we hope they'll read more. They are to select one book from **List A** and one book from **List B**. The third book should be a personal selection chosen by the student, and it does not have to be from either list. Book Lists A and B are attached here, but can also be found on the 7th Grade Marie Murphy webpage.

When students return in the fall for their 7th grade year, they will be expected to share their summer reading. If we are still learning remotely (yes, that sentence was difficult to write), I will create alternate plans for how kids will be sharing what they read.

1. Students will either book talk or take a Reading Counts test on the book they chose to read from **List A**. This will benefit the student's First Quarter Independent Reading grade.
2. Students should also be prepared to write about and discuss the book they read from **List B** when they return to school.

If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to working with you and your child during the 2020-2021 school year. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Kathy Pagakis
7th Grade English

Carrie Stotz
Library Media Specialist

Angie Piechowiak
Learning Resource Teacher



Park, Linda Sue When My Name was Keoko Historical Fiction
Sun-hee and her older brother, Tae-yul, live in Korea with their parents. Because Korea is under Japanese occupation, the children study Japanese and speak it at school. Their own language, their flag, the folktales Uncle tells them—even their names—are all part of the Korean culture that is now forbidden.

Pipe, Jim You Wouldn't Want to be a Salem Witch Nonfiction
Salem Witch! casts the reader as Priscilla Bishop, a 1692 Salem, Massachusetts, girl watching her town kill itself over supposed witchcraft.

Sheinkin, Steve King George: What was his Problem? Everything Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the American Revolution Nonfiction
Sheinkin succeeds in making history as interesting for young people to read as it should be. He has collected intriguing stories about the American Revolution and offers them in context for today's readers. Beginning with the origins of colonial discontent and running through to the final celebration Washington has with his officers, Sheinkin uses a very casual conversational tone and often talks directly to the reader.

Speare, Elizabeth George Witch of Blackbird Pond Historical Fiction
Kit Tyler knew, as she gazed for the first time at the cold, bleak shores of Connecticut Colony, that her new home would never be like the shimmering Caribbean islands she left behind. In the stern Puritan community of her relatives, she soon felt caged as well, and lonely.

Spiegelman, Art Maus Nonfiction
A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself.

List B

- Alexander, Kwayme Booked Fiction – Free Verse
In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel THE CROSSOVER, soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.
- Applegate, Katherine The One and Only Ivan Fiction – Newbery Winner
Ivan’s transformative emergence from the “Ape at Exit 8” to “The One and Only Ivan, Mighty Silverback,” comes to life through the gorilla’s own distinct narrative voice, which is filled with wry humor, deep emotion and thought-provoking insights into the nature of friendship, hope, and humanity.
- Applegate, Katherine Wishtree Fiction
"Warm and thoughtful, this story is told from the perspective of an ancient oak tree who has seen it all. Readers will root for the old tree, along with the people and animals who come to depend on it. The shorter length and strong plot are appealing for middle grade readers who are growing into novels with more complex subject matter." - Seira Wilson, Amazon Editor
- Auch, M.J. One Handed Catch Historical Fiction
Just after World War II, 11-year-old Norm's family owns a meat market. On the Fourth of July, while helping his dad in the store, he gets his hand caught in the meat grinder and loses it. He then faces the challenges of one-handed shoe tying, band practice, and his dream of being a baseball player.
- Craft, Jerry New Kid Graphic Novel/Realistic Fiction
Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?
- Draper, Sharon Out of My Mind Realistic Fiction
Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she’s determined to let everyone know it...somehow.
- Farmer, Nancy The House of the Scorpion Fantasy/Science Fiction
As Matt struggles to understand his existence, he is threatened by a sinister cast of characters, including El Patrón's power-hungry family, and he is surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards. Escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But escape from the Alacrán Estate is no guarantee of freedom, because Matt is marked by his difference in ways he doesn't even suspect.
- Korman, Gordon Schooled Realistic Fiction
Capricorn Anderson had never watched a television show before. He'd never tasted a pizza. He had never even heard of a wedgie. And he had never, in his wildest dreams, thought of living anywhere but Garland Farm commune with his hippie caretaker, Rain.

- Levin, Gail Carson Ella Enchanted Fantasy
 At her birth, Ella of Frell receives a foolish fairy's gift—the “gift” of obedience. Ella must obey any order, whether it's to hop on one foot for a day and a half, or to chop off her own head! But strong-willed Ella does not accept her fate... Against a bold backdrop of princes, ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, and fairy godmothers, Ella goes on a quest to break the curse forever.
- Lupica, Mike Heat Realistic Fiction
 Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his 17-year-old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba.
- Medina, Meg Merci Suarez Changes Gears Realistic Fiction
 Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. When bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on, so she's left to her own worries, while also feeling all on her own at school.
- Myers, Walter Dean Monster Realistic Fiction
 "Monster" is what the prosecutor called 16-year-old Steve Harmon for his supposed role in the fatal shooting of a convenience-store owner. The reader becomes both juror and witness during the trial of Steve's life. To calm his nerves as he sits in the courtroom, aspiring filmmaker Steve chronicles the proceedings in movie script format. Interspersed throughout his screenplay are journal writings that provide insight into Steve's life.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz Becoming Naomi Leon Realistic Fiction
 Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special."
- Sonnenblick, Jordan Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie Realistic Fiction
 Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band, has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).
- Venkatraman, Padma A Time to Dance Realistic Fiction
 This inspiring story of a young girl's struggle to regain her passion and find a new peace is told lyrically through verse that captures the beauty and mystery of India and the ancient *bharatanatyam* dance form. This is a stunning novel about spiritual awakening, the power of art, and above all, the courage and resilience of the human spirit.
- Yang, Kelly Front Desk Realistic Fiction
 Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?
- Zevin, Gabrielle Elsewhere Fantasy
 Although Liz is maturing, coping with disappointments, and controlling her anger, she is getting younger. Having been killed by a hit and run driver, she now lives in Elsewhere with the grandmother who died before she was born. After death, the residents get younger until they become babies and are reborn onto Earth again.