

Reading List Grade 7



Below are examples of books 7th graders can read over the summer break. It is suggested that students entering 7th grade read 3 or more books from differing genres, but the books need not be chosen from this list exclusively, as it is by no means exhaustive.

Classics

Alcott, L. *Little Women*

Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy share happy hours and trials growing up in the 1800's in New England.

Bronte, C. *Jane Eyre*

Jane Eyre, a young governess, is fascinated by her brooding, passionate master and discovers his secret amid the ashes of Thornfield.

Poe, E. A. *Short Stories*

Poe paints a world of horror and imagination in these famous short stories.

Shelley, M. *Frankenstein*

A scientist learns the secret of breathing life into a creature he has created and then suffers the terrible consequences of betraying it.

Smith, B. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

In this heart warming story of the childhood and youth of Francie Nolan, of her family and friends, we see the pain and beauty of her way of life as it appears through her especially observant eyes.

Stevenson, R. *Treasure Island*

Travel the seas with Jim Hawkins as he encounters Long John Silver and hidden treasure in this grand adventure of treachery, greed, and daring.

Adventure & Mystery

Christie, A. *Murder on the Orient Express*

A man is murdered on the train going from Istanbul to Calais. The famous detective, Hercule Poirot, happens to be on board and unravels the mystery.

Hamilton, V. *House of Dies Drear*

This is the spellbinding modern-day story of a massive house that once helped to hide fugitive slaves in the labyrinth of underground tunnels.

London, J. *White Fang*

Tortured by his original owner, White Fang finally has a kind master for whom he is willing to sacrifice his life. This is the stirring account of a wolf tamed into the likeness of a dog.

Richter, C. *Light in the Forest*

A white boy who has been reared by the Indians is dragged back to the settlement against his will. He rebels and escapes to the forest but is faced with the problem of whether he wants to accept the values of the white people or the Indians.

Staples, S. *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*

When suddenly called upon to uphold the family honor, Shabanu finds herself caught in a tangle of conflicting emotions and sense of duty.

Imaginative & Science Fiction

Adams, R. *Watership Down*

This novel describes a group of adventurous rabbits who desert their doomed city and venture forth against all odds to find a new home.

Asimov, I. *The Martian Way and Other Stories*

Travel into alien worlds with Master Storyteller, Asimov, with tales of strange worlds, mysterious beings, and ingenious humans.

Bradbury, R. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*

After the performance of a carnival show, some of the townspeople begin to change form.

Brooks, T. *The Elf Queen of Shannara*

Because the enchantment has left the Four Lands, Wren is sent to find the Elves. Wren's journey is filled with adventure as he travels across the Blue Divide and through a terror filled jungle.

Cooper, S. *The Dark is Rising*

On his eleventh birthday, Will is told that he is the last of the old ones and is sent to search for six signs which will aid the old ones in the final battle of good and evil. (Second in a sequence of five books.)

Crichton, M. *Jurassic Park*

Geneticists work with DNA to create the ultimate theme park complete with real dinosaurs. When investigators attempt to determine the safety aspects, the result is twenty-four hours of technology gone terrifyingly wrong.

Eddings, D. *Pawn of Prophecy*

This is an immense epic which fills five books and covers a history of 7000 years. Garon, a young farm boy, becomes involved with the dangerous struggles of gods and kings in far-away lands.

McCaffrey, A. *Dragonsong*

When Menolly is forbidden by her father to continue with her music, she runs away to be with dragons.

Pullman, P. *The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass*

Enter the many realistic, yet fantastic worlds of this trilogy in which Lyra and her dæmon must find their role in the events unfolding around them.

Nonfiction

Frank, A. *Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl*

This famous story is a thirteen-year-old's account of life in hiding in order to survive Nazi terror.

Hautzig, E. *Endless Steppe*

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be exiled in Siberia? This is the story of a girl and her family who are sent to Siberia in 1941.

Herriot, J. *All Creatures Great and Small*

A young, country veterinarian practices in an English town and learns how to handle animals and people, birth and death.

Lord, W. *A Night to Remember*

Are you interested in the true-life disaster of the sinking of one of the greatest luxury liners of all time? When the 'unsinkable' Titanic went down in 1912, over 1200 lives were lost.

Macaulay, D. *The Way Things Work*

David Macaulay, author/illustrator, describes how things work, from a simple inclined plane to microchips and computers.

Meltzer, M. *American Revolutionaries: A History In Their Own Words*

What was it like to cross the Delaware with Washington or to help feed the troops or to tend the wounds or to oppose the war? Read the accounts of those who experienced this and more.

Serof, J. *The Road Back*

Three people find life changed by disabilities as they work to overcome their problems.

Realistic Fiction

Gilbreth, F. *Cheaper By the Dozen*

In this hilarious adventure of a family of twelve children, Father is determined to apply business efficiency principles to his family life.

Greene, B. *Summer Of My German Soldier*

Patty Bergen, a young Jewish girl, is bored the summer that German prisoners were held in a P.O.W. camp outside her town in Arkansas. This all changes when she makes the decision to help Anton, an escaped German soldier.

Paulsen, G. *The Monument*

Adopted at nine years of age, Rocky goes to live with a couple from a small town in Kansas. As a teenager, she gets to know the visiting artist who has been hired to create a monument commemorating the Vietnam War; this event changes her life as well as the lives of the other people in the town.

Peck, R. *A Day No Pigs Would Die*

This is a moving story of a thirteen-year-old Shaker boy and his relationship with his father as they work together on their Vermont farm. Their struggle for survival includes a heart-wrenching decision regarding a beloved pet, a pig.

Taylor, M. *Let The Circle Be Unbroken*

This sequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* describes Stacey and Cassie leaving childhood and becoming young adults.

Voight, C. *Izzy-Willy Nilly*

Pretty cheerleader Isobel Lingard has everything going for her; then one drunk driver changes her life forever.

Historical Fiction

Hunt, I. *Across Five Aprils*

The heartache and agony of the Civil War is reflected in the life of a young Illinois boy. The story also describes the country's reaction to Lincoln's assassination.

Peck, R. *Eagle Fur*

This is an epic of daring men who sought the world's most luxuriant pelts in the great wilderness of Canada, a place where two empires were ready to fight to gain control of the land and fortune. Adventure follows the expedition of the voyagers as they paddle into the unknown.

Rinaldi, A. *A Break with Charity*

This story about the Salem witch trials is told through the eyes of a young girl who sees her friends pulled into naming other community members as witches; she begins to suspect that some of these girls are taking revenge for long-standing quarrels.

Yates, E. *Amos Fortune, Free Man*

This story describes the remarkable life of a man who was born a prince in Africa, lived as a slave in America, and managed to save enough money to buy his freedom and the freedom of others.