

7th Grade Summer Reading List

June 2008

Manageable

- Creech Ruby Holler
Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.
- Dahl Going Solo
Roald Dahl tells the story of his life during the Second World War, where he was an aircraft pilot in North Africa. It is full of many breathtaking events, and at one point his plane comes down and he nearly dies.
- Hiaasen Hoot
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
- O'Dell Island of the Blue Dolphins
Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years, not only merely surviving through her enormous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life.
- Paulsen Hatchet
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce
- Peck A Long Way From Chicago
A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother

- Salisbury Under the Blood Red Sun
Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941
- Spinelli 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
- Tunis Highpockets
Cecil "Highpockets" McDade is a rookie center fielder from North Carolina who, though talented, has an inflated opinion of himself and is disliked by his Dodger teammates. An auto accident midway through the season changes everything, although not right away.

Moderate

- Anderson 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.
- Avi True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. Includes ship illustrations in an appendix.
- Brink Caddie Woodlawn
Adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy living in Wisconsin in 1864.
- Colfer The Wish List
Forced out of her home by her stepfather after her mother's death, Meg Finn becomes a wanderer, until an attempted robbery goes wrong, leaving Meg's spirit in limbo, where she becomes involved in a battle between good and evil.

- Conney Burning Up
There is no place more civilized or more perfect than her hometown, Macey Clare believes. There's certainly no place for racial hatred in her wealthy Connecticut community. But two incidents of racial violence--one forty years old--force Macey to accept a different truth. In the late 1950s, the residents of Shell Beach, including her beloved grandparents, just stood by while something terrible happened. Underneath the surface, Shell Beach is burning up with a decades-old hatred and the silence that has protected it. Macey comes to believe that it is up to her to put out the fire. A strong YA novel with broad appeal and a must read for Coon
- Conney The Face on the Milk Carton
A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.
- George My Side of the Mountain
A boy's experiences living by himself in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.
- LeGuin The Farthest Shore
In the world of Earthsea the magic is disappearing as mages and wizards are forgetting their spells and the springs of magic are running dry. Ged and Arren set out on a quest to find the source of the darkness.
- L'Engle Troubling a Star
As she tries to stay alive after being left on an iceberg in the Antarctic, sixteen-year-old Vicky recalls the series of events that brought her to the bottom of the world and involved her in a dangerous mystery.
- Lupica Travel Team
After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Spears The Witch of Blackbird Pond
A young woman brought up in Barbados comes to live with her uncle in Connecticut, and finds their Puritan way of life difficult after her unconventional upbringing.

Ullman Banner in the Sky
A young boy feels compelled to conquer the mountain that caused his father's death.

Challenging

Alcott Little Women
Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England.

Forbes Johnny Tremain
Johnny Tremain, apprentice silversmith, takes on the cause of freedom as a message carrier for the Sons of Liberty in pre-Revolution Boston.

Greene Summer of My German Soldier
Sheltering an escaped prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old girl in Arkansas.

O'Hara My Friend Flicka
Through his intense devotion to the colt Flicka, a young boy, living on a Wyoming ranch, begins to learn about responsibility and gain a better understanding of his brusque father.

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

Tolkien The Hobbit
Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Challenging

Christie The A.B.C. Murders

First Mrs. Ascher, then Betty Bernard . . . could Hercule Poirot stop the killer before he got to C?

Murder on the Orient Express

The book features the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. Hercule Poirot is puzzled by the fact that all the people aboard the Orient Express had a perfectly good reason to kill a mysterious man who was traveling under an alias. (Also published as *Murder in the Calais Coach*).

Death on the Nile

The book features the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. The action takes place in Egypt, mostly on the Nile River. A tiny, round bullet hole interrupts what seems to be the perfect honeymoon, and not even the great Hercule Poirot can work fast enough to prevent the murderer from striking again.

Doyle The Hound of the Baskersvilles

Sherlock Holmes and Watson set out to solve the mystery that had haunted the Baskerville Family for years and had recently occurred again.

A Study in Scarlet

It is significant as the first story to feature the character of Sherlock Holmes, who would later go on to become one of the most famous and iconic literary detective characters, with long-lasting interest and appeal.

The Valley of Fear

The Valley of Fear is the final Sherlock Holmes novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It is a historical flashback about the real-life activities of the Molly McGuires in Pennsylvania. The novel is divided into two parts: in the first, Holmes investigates an apparent murder and discovers that the body belongs to another man; and in the second, the story of the man originally thought to have been the victim is told.