

Grade Seven Suggested Summer Reading List

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander - Twelve year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson- Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

El Deafo by Cece Bell Starting at a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here she is different. She is sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends.

New Kid by Jerry Craft- 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 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?

Powerless by Cody Matthew- Daniel Corrigan and his parents have just moved to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, when Daniel (who's a big fan of Sherlock Holmes and therefore a careful observer) notices something odd about his neighbor Mollie and her friends. While they may look like ordinary kids, all of them have superhuman abilities that they use to keep the town safe.

Rules by Cynthia Lord- Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

Unstoppable by Tim Green- Winners never give up. If anyone understands the phrase "tough luck," it's Harrison. As a foster kid in a cruel home, he knows his dream of one day playing for the NFL is a long shot. Then Harrison's luck seems to change. He is brought into a new home with kind, loving parents—his new dad is even a football coach. In no time, he's practically unstoppable. But Harrison's good luck can't last forever.

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy by Douglas Adams- The hilarious journey of Arthur Dent and his friend Ford Prefect, who escape from Earth seconds before it is demolished and travel to a variety of galactic civilizations while gathering information for a hitchhiker's guidebook.

Chains by, Laurie Halse Anderson- Sold as a slave to an influential New York Tory family, 13-year-old Isabel spies for the patriot side during the American Revolution in a desperate hope to gain freedom for herself and her 5-year-old sister.

Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly, illustrated by Isabel Roxas- A diverse group of children come together when a prank puts one of the kids and a guinea pig at the bottom of a well. Four different voices narrate the story of middle schoolers pooling their strengths and cooperating to make things right.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson- It is safe to say that the characters in this book are not all virtuous, hard working and self-sacrificing, but it is loads of fun. Youngster Jim goes to look for treasure and gets mixed-up with pirates like the ruthless Long John Silver.

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai - She was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. On October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive.

Savvy by Ingrid Law- Thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy hits—and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, Mibs Beaumont is eager to see what she gets. But just before the big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. After this extraordinary adventure—full of talking tattoos and a kidnapping—not a soul on board will ever be the same.

The Unteachables by Gordon Korman-The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. They have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117. 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, though, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction—and maybe even a shot at redemption.

The Maze Runner by James Dashner (read any book in the series)- When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive.

The Girl Who Threw Butterflies by Mick Cochrane- Molly and her father shared a love of baseball. Tired of girl's softball, passionate about the real thing Molly decides to try out for

varsity men's baseball. This is the story of how she gains the confidence to play ball, earns the respect of the team, and applies lessons of the game to life.

The Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam- This memoir by a NASA scientist is now better known as the movie "October Sky." Homer Hickam grew up in a West Virginia coal mining town but had his sights set somewhere else. His one hope to escape the mines rests on winning a college scholarship at a national science fair competition with his rocketry project. It is amazing how courage, creativity, and determination can sometimes beat impossible odds.

Gathering Blue, Messenger, or Son by Lois Lowry- These books are part of *The Giver Quartet*. Choose one or read them all. Each book has a different protagonist, but is set in the same futuristic era.

Marabel and the Book of Fate by Tracy Barrett-Princess Marabel has lived in the shadow of her twin brother, Marco, her whole life. But on their thirteenth birthday, Marco is kidnapped and Marabel has a chance to save the day.

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan- Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. Willow manages to push through her grief to discover and unite a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine-In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white—the world is full of colors—messy and beautiful. Kathryn Erskine has written a must-read gem, one of the most moving novels of the year.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick-Hugo Cabret is part graphic novel, part text, and a whole lot of wonder. Hugo survives as an orphan on the streets of London by helping wind an old clock and through thieving. All of this changes and Hugo's secrets threaten to come spilling out when he crosses paths with an old toy shop owner.

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie-On a three-day journey through the snowbound Balkan hills, Hercule Poirot must weed through an array of international suspects to find the passenger who murdered a gangster on the Orient Express.

Longbow Girl by Linda Davies- A stunningly exciting and dramatic story set in the wilds of the Welsh mountains, where the brave and beautiful Merry Owen, the Longbow Girl, travels back in time to the autocratic kingdom of King Henry VIII to save her ancestors.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt-Holling Hoodhood is attending seventh grade in the late 1960s. While the Vietnam War consumes his father's attention, Holling is locked into

Wednesday lessons with a teacher who insists he read the plays of Shakespeare. This Newbery Award-winning book gets high marks for wit and making a complex sociopolitical era accessible for present-day middle schoolers.

Paperboy by Vince Vawter-Little Man is an amazing ball player, but he can barely say a word—not even his own name—without stuttering. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, Little Man's not exactly looking forward to interacting with the customers. The author is a stutterer and, because of that, we get the full experience of what it feels like to be unable to speak words as easily as others.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai-Hà loves her home in Vietnam, but when the Vietnam War reaches Saigon, her family boards a ship headed for the United States. Hà tells her story in verse, and it is based on the author's childhood.

Fever, 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson During the summer of 1793, fever breaks out in Philadelphia. Fourteen Year Old Mattie Cook, who lives with her mother and grandfather at the coffee shop they own, is forced to flee the city to avoid the sickness. She encounters problems along the way, and is forced to make some grown-up decisions to save her family and the business.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko- A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron- Searching for his purpose over the course of multiple canine lives, Bailey is reborn as a golden-haired puppy after a tragic death as a stray and shares a loving bond with young Ethan before he again dies and starts over.

Travel Team by Mike Lupica -When twelve-year-old Danny Walker is cut from the travel team for questionable reasons, his father and he decide to take matters in their own hands by joining forces with other determined kids to make a team of their own and prove the coach wrong in a show of strength on the court.

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick- From first-time novelist Jordan Sonnenblick, a brave and beautiful story that will make readers laugh and break their hearts at the same time. Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life; he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down.

Restart by Gordon Korman Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name.

The Girl Who Drank The Moon by Kelly Barnhill- Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind and gentle. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster named Glerk and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, Fyrian. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead The novel is about Miranda, a sixth grader who lives in a New York City apartment with her single mother. Miranda receives a series of mysterious notes, notes that appear to foretell the future and that ask for her help. Miranda's quest to solve the mystery of the notes is set against her struggles with a rival at school. The story combines mystery and science fiction with themes of personal growth and relationships.

When Stars Are Scattered by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp. When an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp. Graphic format.