

7th Grade Reading List

Choose and Read ONE book from the list below.

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| American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang | Jin Wang, a Chinese American teenager who struggles with his identity in a predominantly American culture. A journey of self-discovery. |
| Soviet Daughter, A Graphic Revolution by Julia Alekseyeva | This is the story of Julia Alekseyeva and her great-grandmother Lola, two extraordinary women swept up in the history of their tumultuous times. Born in 1910 to a poor, Jewish family outside of Kiev, Lola lived through the Bolshevik revolution, a horrifying civil war, Stalinist purges, and the Holocaust. |
| We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly | Siblings Cash, Fitch, and Bird move through the daily trials of pre-teen life in the 1980's. Fitch and Bird are twins who are now in the same grade as their older brother, Cash — because Cash was held back in the seventh grade. Bird is a space aficionado and dreams of being an astronaut. |
| I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch, and Martin Ganda | The true story of two pen pals: Caitlin, a typical American teenager, and Martin, a poor but incredibly bright and hard-working boy in the African country of Zimbabwe who's struggling to get enough money to stay in school. |
| The Stars Beneath our Feet by David Barclay Moore | A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death. |
| Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence by Doris Pilkington | Based on a true story, the book is a personal account of an Indigenous Australian family's experiences as members of the Stolen Generation—the forced removal of mixed-race children from their families during the early 20th century. |
| Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson | The book tells the story of an impulsive and adventurous young boy named Jim Hawkins who comes across a treasure map. He goes on a journey to try and recover the treasure, which once belonged to the famous Captain Flint. On his journey, he meets Long John Silver, a one-legged cook who ends up leading a pirate mutiny. |
| Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson | Jesse's life changes when he befriends Leslie, an outsider. Together they create a world full of magical creatures. Soon, one of the friends must draw on the strength of their "kingdom" to cope with a tragedy. |
| The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett | Mary Lennox, a spoiled English girl being raised in India. After the death of her parents, she is sent to live at her mysterious uncle's Yorkshire estate. She hears screams of a child echoing its halls at night despite the servant's insistence it is only the wind. |
| The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank | The story of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family during World War II. |
| The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau | A post-apocalyptic underground city threatened by aging infrastructure and corruption. Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow follow clues left by the original builders to the safety in the outside world. |
| The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne | During World War II, 8-yr-old Bruno and his family leave Berlin to take up residence near the concentration camp where his father has just become commandant. Unhappy and lonely, he finds Shmuel, a Jewish boy of his age. Separated by a barbed-wire fence, the boys begin a forbidden friendship, oblivious to the real nature of their surroundings. |

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| Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls | Billy Coleman lives in the Ozark mountains. His dream is to purchase redbone coonhound dogs and train them to hunt. Follow their adventures and challenges. |
| A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle | Meg Murry is transported on an adventure through time and space with her brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin to rescue her father, a gifted scientist, from the evil forces that hold him captive. |
| The Red Badge of Courage by Steven Crane | During the American Civil War, the story is about a young private of the Union Army, Henry Fleming, struggles with wanting to be a war hero, while trying not to succumb to cowardice. |
| The Book Thief by Markus Zusak | About a girl during World War II in Germany. Her foster parents hide a Jewish man, but that only brings attention to the family. |
| When you Trap a Tiger by Tae Kelle | A Korean girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother. A magical tiger arrives prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. |
| The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan and Peter Sis | This story follows the early experiences of Neftali Reyes, a boy who is spellbound by the wonders of the natural world and grows into the man that we know. |
| Saturday Night Dirt: A MOTOR Novel by Will Weaver | Headwaters Speedway is the place to be. Thanks to rainouts across the state, this dirt track is drawing big-time stock cars and local drivers. Trace Bonham in his Street Stock Chevy that's sure to be a winner if he can figure out why it's acting up. Beau Kim: his Modified is patched together from whatever parts he scraped up. Amber Jenkins has what it takes to run rings around them all. Melody Walters, can she keep the speedway afloat? |
| My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George | A boy who learns courage, independence, and the need for companionship while attempting to live in the Catskill Mountains of New York State. |
| Any book of your choice by C.S. Lewis | |
| Any book of your choice by J.R.R. Tolkien | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW

7th Grade Summer Reading Guidelines

Instructions:

- Choose **one** book from the list provided. The book can be borrowed from the library or purchased online, locally, or electronically.
- After reading the book, **write a short essay** that answers the following questions about your chosen book. The essay should **be 1-2 pages, double-spaced, typed, and MLA-formatted**. (Students who are new to FCS are not required to use MLA-formatting if they are not already familiar with it.)
- Do not copy the questions or use bullet points. Instead, your essay should be in **paragraph** form. (At least **3 Paragraphs, 3-5 sentences each**.)
- **Use your own words**. Do not copy any part of your essay from another source (e.g. a website, a book), you will receive a failing grade and a discipline write-up. That is called plagiarism.
- **This is due on the first day of class!!!**

Questions:

1. Include: title and year of publication.
2. Author's name.

Choose 1 question from each section.

Personal and Textual Connections

- How does the story make you feel?
- Have you ever had a similar experience?
- Do any of the characters remind you of someone in your life?

Setting

- When and where does the story take place?
- Is the place important to the story? How?
- Does the season or the time affect the characters or the story?

Characters

- Who is the main character in the story?
- What choices does the character have?
- Who is another character who either hurts or helps the main character?

Choose 2 questions for the last section:

Plot

- What is the story's problem? How did it get solved?
- What is the most exciting part (the climax) of the story?
- How did the story end? Did you enjoy the ending?
- Do you have any unanswered questions about the story?