

## Seventh Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Students and Parents,

For the upcoming school year, it is an expectation that all incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders read at least one book from the attached list during the summer. We have chosen the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award 2018 Nominees as the basis for our book list of summer reading novels.

We will evaluate the summer reading at the beginning of the school year. All students must have completed their book prior to the first day of school so teachers can assign an early project/assessment. The beginning of the year assessment provides a model of expectations for the student and allows teachers to see an early example of each student's work. Similarly, these novels provide a common literary experience when discussing classroom novels, enrich background knowledge, and generate points of comparison and analysis throughout the year.

Attached you will find the book list with brief summaries of the titles, a student reading log to be used as a tool to remind students what they have read during each session, and a critique chart to be filled out at the completion of the novel. Both charts will be used and collected within the first few weeks of the school year during Literature class. An additional written assessment will be completed within the first month of school, with direction from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Literature teacher.

We hope that each child will find a topic of interest within these titles. We expect that summer reading will be an enjoyable and relaxing time for all.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding these expectations. Thank you for supporting our efforts in keeping students reading and learning all year long!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eileen Paparone and Mrs. Jeanne Olmstead

## 7<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading Book List

### ***Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans*** by Don Brown

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.

### ***Awkward*** by Svetlana Chmakova

On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of these basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, Jaime Thompson, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away! Falling back on rule two and surrounding herself with new friends in the art club, Peppi still can't help feeling ashamed about the way she treated Jaime. Things are already awkward enough between the two, but to make matters worse, he's a member of her own club's archrivals--the science club! And when the two clubs go to war, Peppi realizes that sometimes you have to break the rules to survive middle school!

### ***Hour of the Bees*** by Lindsay Eagar

Things are only impossible if you stop to think about them. . . .

While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. At first, Carol avoids prickly Grandpa Serge. But as the summer wears on and the heat bears down, Carol finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by the crazy stories he tells her about a healing tree, a green-glass lake, and the bees that will bring back the rain and end a hundred years of drought. As the thin line between magic and reality starts to blur, Carol must decide for herself what is possible — and what it means to be true to her roots. Readers who dream that there's something more out there will be enchanted by this captivating novel of family, renewal, and discovering the wonder of the world.

### ***House Arrest*** by K.A. Holt

I didn't think anyone would notice,  
if I took that credit card,  
if, in one stolen second,  
I bought Levi's medicine.

But someone did notice.  
Now I have to prove I'm not a delinquent, I'm not a total bonehead.

That one quick second turned into  
juvie  
a judge

a year of house arrest,  
a year of this court-ordered journal,  
a year to avoid messing up  
and being sent back to juvie  
so fast my head will spin.

What could go wrong?

***The Boy on the Wooden Box*** by Leon Leyson

Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. With incredible luck, perseverance, and grit, Leyson was able to survive the sadism of the Nazis, including that of the demonic Amon Goeth, commandant of Plaszow, the concentration camp outside Krakow. Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, a man named Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler's List

***A Night Divided*** by Jennifer Nielsen

With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family divided overnight. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city.

But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?

***The Seventh Most Important Thing*** by Shelley Pearsall

It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge—he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him.

Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. He can't believe it—is he really supposed to rummage through people's trash? But it isn't long before Arthur realizes there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .

***I Am Princess X*** by Cherie Priest

Once upon a time, two best friends created a princess together. Libby drew the pictures, May wrote the tales, and their heroine, Princess X, slayed all the dragons and scaled all the mountains their imaginations could conjure.

Once upon a few years later, Libby was in the car with her mom, driving across the Ballard Bridge on a rainy night. When the car went over the side, Libby passed away, and Princess X died with her. Once upon a now: May is sixteen and lonely, wandering the streets of Seattle, when she sees a sticker slapped in a corner window.

Princess X?

When May looks around, she sees the Princess everywhere: Stickers. Patches. Graffiti. There's an entire underground culture, focused around a webcomic at IAmPrincessX.com. The more May explores the webcomic, the more she sees disturbing similarities between Libby's story and Princess X online. And that means that only one person could have started this phenomenon---her best friend, Libby, who lives.

### ***Goodbye Stranger*** by Rebecca Stead

Bridge is an accident survivor who's wondering why she's still alive. Emily has new curves and an almost-boyfriend who wants a certain kind of picture. Tabitha sees through everybody's games—or so she tells the world. The three girls are best friends with one rule: No fighting. Can it get them through seventh grade?

This year everything is different for Sherm Russo as he gets to know Bridge Barsamian. What does it mean to fall for a girl—as a friend?

On Valentine's Day, an unnamed high school girl struggles with a betrayal. How long can she hide in plain sight?

### ***The Bitter Side of Sweet*** by Tara Sullivan

Two young boys must escape a life of slavery in modern-day Ivory Coast

Fifteen-year-old Amadou counts the things that matter. For two years what has mattered are the number of cacao pods he and his younger brother, Seydou, can chop down in a day. This number is very important. The higher the number the safer they are because the bosses won't beat them. The higher the number the closer they are to paying off their debt and returning home to Baba and Auntie. Maybe. The problem is Amadou doesn't know how much he and Seydou owe, and the bosses won't tell him. The boys only wanted to make some money during the dry season to help their impoverished family. Instead they were tricked into forced labor on a plantation in the Ivory Coast; they spend day after day living on little food and harvesting beans in the hot sun—dangerous, backbreaking work. With no hope of escape, all they can do is try their best to stay alive—until Khadija comes into their lives.

She's the first girl who's ever come to camp, and she's a wild thing. She fights bravely every day, attempting escape again and again, reminding Amadou what it means to be free. But finally, the bosses break her, and what happens next to the brother he has always tried to protect almost breaks Amadou. The old impulse to run is suddenly awakened. The three band together as family and try just once more to escape.

**Summer Reading Response**  
**Transitioning to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Literacy**

<b>Title of Book:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	
<b>Genre:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fantasy</li><li>• Adventure</li><li>• Realistic Fiction</li><li>• Science Fiction</li><li>• Historical Fiction</li></ul>	
<b>Brief Summary of Plot:</b> Don't give too much information or the ending!!!	
<b>Setting:</b> When and where does the book take place? Past, present, or future? During what historical time period is the setting?	
<b>Characters:</b> Who are the main characters in the story? What are they like?	

<p><b>Favorite Part:</b> What was your favorite part of the story and why? Be specific and provide evidence and examples from the text.</p>	
<p><b>Personal Response:</b> Provide specific comments of praise and criticism. What did you like/dislike about the book? What could have been done differently to make the story more appealing?</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Who should be the reader of this book? Who is the best target audience for this type of writing?</p>	
<p><b>Rating:</b> How many stars would you give this book and why? ****</p>	





