

HMJDS SUMMER READING Recommendations

7th & 8th Grades



HMJDS 7th GRADE SUMMER BOOK LIST

Scythe

Two teens must learn the "art of killing" in this Printz Honor-winning book, the first in a chilling new series from Neal Shusterman, author of the New York Times best-selling Unwind Dystology series. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: Humanity has conquered all those things and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life - and they are commanded to do so in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe - a role that neither wants. These teens must master the "art" of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. Scythe is the first novel of a thrilling new series by National Book Award-winning author Neal Shusterman in which Citra and Rowan learn that a perfect world comes only with a heavy price.



Monsoon Summer (Fiction, Romance) By Mitali Perkins

Fifteen-year-old Jasmine ("Jazz") is conflicted about spending the summer in Pune, India, where her mother has received a grant to work at the orphanage where Jazz had lived as a child. Jazz would rather spend the summer at home in California, with Steve, the best friend she secretly loves. Jazz has always identified more with her tall, shy, "bulky" father than with her slight, "do-gooder" mother, but as she forms new friendships in Pune and delves deeper into her Indian heritage, she discovers her own strong beauty as well as the confidence to help others.

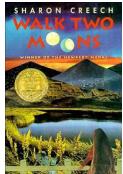


The Thing about Jellyfish Ali Benjamin

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.



Walk Two Moons (Fiction, Family Drama) By Sharon Creech



This is the story of thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle, from Bybanks, Kentucky, who is traveling across the country to Idaho with her grandparents. Along the way, she tells them the story of "Phoebe Winterbottom, her disappearing mother, and the lunatic." She also tells you, the reader, another more serious story about her own mother and herself.

Leap of Faith (Realistic Fiction, humor, family) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Abigail is starting a new middle school, a Catholic school, because she's been expelled from her old one. She's sure that this place will be just the same as the last, and no one will listen to her here either. Even her parents don't seem able to really hear the truth about what happened at the previous school. But now she finds herself in a community of people who *do* listen, who want to be her friends, and who help her discover talent for theater that she never knew she had. Converting to Catholicism began merely as a way to annoy her parents, but quickly it becomes more. Could she be developing real faith?



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Uprising (Historical Fiction, immigration) by Margaret Haddix

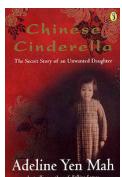
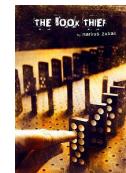


Told from alternating points of view, this historical novel draws upon the experiences of three very different young women: Bella, who has just emigrated from Italy and doesn't speak a word of English; Yetta, a Russian immigrant and crusader for labor rights; and Jane, the daughter of a wealthy businessman. Bella and Yetta work together at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory under terrible conditions. Through a series of twists and turns, the three girls become fast friends--and all of them are in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory on March 25, 1911, the day of the fateful fire. In a novel that puts a human face on the tragedy, Margaret Peterson Haddix has created a sweeping, forceful tale that will have readers guessing until the last page who--if anyone--survives.

HMJDS 8th GRADE SUMMER BOOK LIST

The Book Thief (Historical Fiction) By Marcus Zusak

Zusak has created a work for sophisticated teen readers. Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife and especially her foster parents.



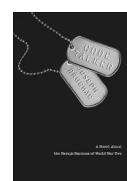
Chinese Cinderella (Non-Fiction) By Adeline Yen Mah

In this memoir Mah writes about her difficult childhood. Blamed for the loss of her mother, who died shortly after giving birth to her, Mah is an outcast in her own family. When her father remarries and moves the family to Shanghai to evade the Japanese during WWII, Mah and her siblings are relegated to second-class status by their stepmother.

Code Talker (Historical Fiction) By Joseph Bruchac

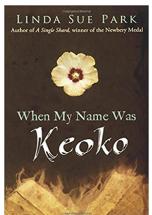
Native American storyteller, Bruchac assumes the persona of a Navajo grandfather telling his grandchildren about his World War II experiences. Protagonist Ned Begay starts with his early schooling

at an Anglo boarding school, where the Navajo language is forbidden, and continues through his Marine career as a "code talker," explaining his long silence until "de-classified" in 1969.



When My Name was Keoko (Historical Fiction) By Linda Sue Park

NOTE: Contains mature content, language and behavior.



Sun-hee and her older brother, Tae-yul, live in Korea with their parents. Because Korea is under Japanese occupation, the children study Japanese and speak it at school. Their own language, their flag, the folktales Uncle tells them, even their names, are all part of the Korean culture that is now forbidden. When World War II comes to Korea, Sun-hee is surprised that the Japanese expect their Korean subjects to fight on their side. But the greatest shock of all comes when Tae-yul enlists in the Japanese army in an attempt to protect Uncle, who is

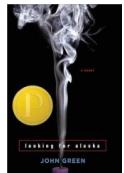
suspected of aiding the Korean resistance. Sun-hee stays behind, entrusted with the life-and-death secrets of a family at war.

The Secret Life of Bees (Realistic historical fiction, Best seller) Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.



Looking for Alaska (Modern Fiction, Funny, Witty) By John Green

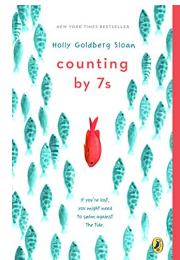


NOTE: Contains mature language and behavior.

Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet Francois Rabelais called the “Great Perhaps.” Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young. Clever, funny, screwed-up, and attractive, Alaska will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps.

Counting by 7s By Holly Goldberg Sloan

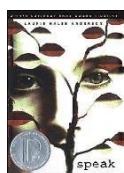
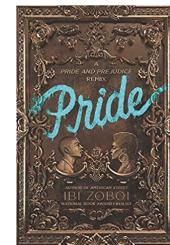
Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.



Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

Pride by Ibi Zoboi

Zuri Benitez has pride. Brooklyn pride, family pride, and pride in her Afro-Latino roots. But pride might not be enough to save her rapidly gentrifying neighborhood from becoming unrecognizable. When the wealthy Darcy family moves in across the street, Zuri wants nothing to do with their two teenage sons, even as her older sister, Janae, starts to fall for the charming Ainsley. She especially can't stand the judgmental and arrogant Darius. Yet as Zuri and Darius are forced to find common ground, their initial dislike shifts into an unexpected understanding. But with four wild sisters pulling her in different directions, cute boy Warren vying for her attention, and college applications hover.



Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

NOTE: Contains mature and difficult subject matter.

Melinda Sordino busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't even know hate her from a distance. The safest place to be is alone, inside her own head. But even that's not safe. Because there's something she's trying not to think about, something about the night of the party that, if she let it in, would blow her carefully constructed disguise to smithereens. And then she would have to speak the truth. This extraordinary first novel has captured the imaginations of teenagers and adults across the country.

Other Recommended Books for Grade 7 and 8 Students:

Grade 7, On Grade Level

Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff by Walter Dean Myers
I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This by Jacqueline Woodson
13: Thirteen Stories That Capture The Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen by James Howe
QB1 by Mike Lupica
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
Maze Runner by James Dashner
A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel by Madeline L'Engle & Hope Larson
Freedom Maze by Delia Sherman
Al Capone Does My Homework by Gennifer Choldenko
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
The Klipfish Code by Mary Casanova
Lottery Boy by Michael Byrne
Ghost Hawk by Susan Cooper
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
Cleopatra Rules! The Amazing Life of the Original Teen Queen by Vicky Alvear Shecter
Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider by Jean Fritz
Blizzard by Jim Murphy
Because They Marched by Russell Freedman
Which Way to the Wild West by Steve Sheinkin

Grade 7, Reaching Grade Level

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Fantasy League by Mike Lupica
Go Long by Tiki & Ronde Barber
Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke
Yu-Gi-Oh! Millennium World: Birth of Dragon by Kazuki Takahashi
The Fighting Ground by Avi
Urban Outlaws by Peter Jay Black
Nancy Drew: The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene
Spy School by Stuart Gibbs
39 Clues: Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan
Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Bad Girls: Sirens, Jezebels, Murderesses, Thieves, and Other Female Villains by Jane Yolen
Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman
Mo'ne Davis: Remember My Name by Mo'ne Davis
100 Deadliest Things on the Planet by Anna Claybourne
Special Effects Make-Up Artist by Jonathan Craig and Bridget Light
Apollo 13 (Totally True Adventures) by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld
Civil Rights Movement by Wendy Conklin

Grade 8, On Grade Level

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Saenz
Night Hoops by Carl Deuker
American Born Chinese (graphic novel) by Gene Luen Yang
Paper Towns by John Green
Pedro & Me (graphic novel) by Judd Winick
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes
Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
Romiette and Julio by Sharon M. Draper
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir
The 5th Wave by Rick Yancey
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Courage & Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors by Deborah Hopkinson
The Other Side of Truth by Beverley Naidoo
Swim That Rock by John Rocco & Jay Primiano
Dreaming In Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices edited by Charleyboy, Lisa, and Mary Leatherdale
Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos
A Time To Dance by Padma Venkatraman
Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans by Don Brown
Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science by John Fleischman

Grade 8, Reaching Grade Level

Tangerine by Edward Bloor
Guys Read: Other Worlds by Jon Scieszka
Ball Don't Lie by Matt De La Peña
Game Changers (Game Changers #1) by Mike Lupica
The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake
The Spiderwick Chronicles: Lucinda's Secret by Holly Black
Dread Locks by Neal Shusterman
Gregor and the Code of Claw by Suzanne Collins
Guys Read: Thriller edited by Jon Scieszka
Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne
March: Book One by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
Letters From a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs by Mary E. Lyons
Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark by Alvin Schwartz
The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach
Ruby Redfort Catch Your Death by Lauren Child
The Mysterious Benedict Society Book 1 by Trenton Lee Stewart
Tree Shaker: The Life of Nelson Mandela by Bill Keller
Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman by Marc Tyler Nobleman
Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina by Michaela DePrince and Elaine DePrince
Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull
Remember: The Journey to School Integration by Toni Morrison
I Remember Beirut by Zeinab Abirached