7th Grade - Suggested Summer Reading List

10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War by Philip Caputo
Presents a collection of illustrated photographs and maps depicting the war in Vietnam from its beginning under French control to the fall of Saigon in 1975, and contains accounts from soldiers and civilians, profiles of those involved, and a look at the role of women on the battlefield.

Animal Therapist by Kay Frydenborg
Presents a short study on animal-assisted therapy, and describes how a variety of animals are used to help disabled children and adults as well as the elderly, assist in disasters such as September 11, and more.

Artic Explorer: the Story of Matthew Henson by Jeri Ferris
A biography of African-American explorer Matthew Henson, discussing his work as assistant Robert E, Peary, and his role in Peary’s attempts to reach the North Pole.

Basher five-two: The Scott O'Grady Story of a F-16 Fighter Pilot by Scott O'Grady and Michael French. U.S. Air Force pilot Scott O'Grady tells how he evaded capture and stayed alive with little water and no food in enemy territory after the F-16 he was flying on a peace-keeping mission in Bosnia was shot down.

Boggart by Susan Cooper
After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning home to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a Boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

The Boys’ War by Jim Murphy
Includes diary entries, personal letters, and archival photographs to describe the experiences of boys, sixteen years old or younger, who fought in the Civil War.

Brian’s Hunt by Gary Paulsen
Two years after having survived a plane crash into the Canadian wilderness, a sixteen-year-old returns to the wild to befriend a wounded dog and hunt a rogue bear.

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen
Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author’s book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Catherine Called Birdy by Karen Cushman
The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.
**Codetalker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II** by Joseph Bruchac
After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

**Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam** by Cynthia Kadohata
A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog.

**Crispin** by Avi
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

**Cryobiology** by Cherie Winner
Explores the field of cryobiology, the study of life at low temperatures, and looks at what scientists are learning from observations of animals that can survive being frozen, become supercool, or hibernate.

**A Corner of the Universe** by Ann M. Martin
The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie’s small town.

**The Dark Clone** by Carol Mantas
Miranda, aware that she has two clones, one living with her and the other under the guardianship of Dr. Mullen, begins to suspect there is a fourth clone when she starts getting in trouble for things she did not do.

**Da Vinci and His Times** by Andrew Langley
Full-color photographs, drawings, and illustrations depict the works of painter, scientist, philosopher, and engineer Leonardo da Vinci and the times in which he lived including the Renaissance church, architecture, fashion, and astronomy.

**Eager’s Nephew** by Helen Fox
In a world which has banned self-aware robots, Eager and his brilliant but headstrong nephew, Jonquil, come out of hiding to visit the Bell family, and soon become involved in the mysterious and dangerous events surrounding them and their friends.

**A Face First** by Priscilla Cummings
Twelve-year-old Kelley decides to cut off contact with her friends and classmates after suffering third-degree burns to her face and body in a car accident near her home on Maryland’s Kent Island.

**Falling In Like** by Melissa J. Morgan
Girls from Camp Lakeview keep in touch through a blog as Priya deals with a science fair project, Alyssa fights for the chance to be featured in an arts magazine, Val vies for a spot in a dance recital, and a Tori attracts the attention of the son of one of her father's clients.
**Downriver** by Will Hobbs  
Jessie and the other rebellious teenage members of a wilderness survival school team abandon their adult leader and try to run the dangerous white water of the Grand Canyon.

**Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery** by Russell Freedman  
A photobiography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own.

**Far Away Summer** by Johanna Hurwitz  
In the summer of 1910, Dossi, a poor Russian immigrant from the tenements of New York, spends two weeks with the Meade family on their Vermont farm, and all their lives are enriched by the experience.

**The Flight of the Silver Turtle** by John Fardell  
Ben, Zara, Sam, and Marcia begin their summer vacation by helping Professor Ampersand and a new friend build the Silver Turtle, a futuristic airplane, but on the day the first test flight is planned, a strange woman steals the airplane with the children inside.

**Fries Alive!** by David Baldacci  
While competing with a rival restaurant for the winning float in the Founder's Day parade, nine-year-old Freddy Funkhouser constructs a batch of animated French fries in his secret laboratory that come to life after receiving an enormous jolt of electricity.

**The Golden Compass** by Philip Pullman  
In this exciting fantasy, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

**Heat** by Mike Lupica  
Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

**Jacob Have I Loved** by Katherine Paterson  
Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.

**Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty: United States Marine Corps** by Ellen Emerson White  
Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton
An account of the attempt, through a hair-raising twenty-four hours on a remote jungle island, to avert a global emergency - a crisis triggered by today’s rush to commercialize genetic engineering.

The Life of A Knight by Kay Eastwood
Describes the duties and privileges of a medieval knight in warfare and in service to a lord, and explores aspects of daily life such as clothing, apprenticeship, heraldry, and obedience to the chivalric code.

Medieval Life by Andrew Langley
Presents a photographic introduction to medieval life, discussing medieval society, and examining homes, food, the role of women, soldiers, the church, trade and commerce, occupations, celebrations, and other topics.

Midwife’s Apprentice by Karen Cushman
In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Morning Girl by Michael Dories
Morning Girl, who loves the day, and her younger brother, Star Boy, who loves the night, take turns describing their life on an island in pre-Columbian America; in Morning Girl’s last narrative, she witnesses the arrival of the first Europeans in the world.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains, including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

Mr. Tucket by Gary Paulsen
In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild.

Next-door Neighbors by Sarah Ellis
Her family’s move to a new town in Canada leaves the shy twelve-year-old Peggy feeling lonely and uncomfortable, until she befriends the unconventional George and the Chinese servant of her imperious neighbor, Mr. Manning.

Park’s Quest by Katherine Paterson
Eleven-year-old Park makes some startling discoveries when he travels to his grandfather's farm in Virginia to learn about his father who died in the Vietnam War.
**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 an young paraplegic.

**Snow Bound** by Harry Mazer  
Two teenagers caught in a snowstorm face a fight for survival in a desolate area.

**Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board**  
By Bethany Hamilton  
Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen.

**Stepping on the Cracks** by Mary Downing Hahn  
In 1944, while her brother is overseas fighting in World War II, eleven-year-old Margaret gets a new view of the school bully Gordy, when she finds him hiding his own brother, an army deserter, and decides to help him.

**Stormbreaker** by Anthony Horowitz  
After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle’s dangerous work for Britain’s intelligence agency, MI6.

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

**Summer Stories** by Nora Thacker  
Beginning with a lengthy bus trip and ending with a Fourth of July sailboat ride, ten-year-old Red enjoys both independence and companionship as she makes her annual visit to her cousins’ home on the Gulf of Mexico.

**The Wanderer** by Sharon Creech  
Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

**Weedflower** by Cynthia Kadohata  
After twelve-year-old Sumiko and her Japanese-American family are relocated from their flower farm in southern California to an internment camp on a Mojave Indian reservation in Arizona, she helps her family and neighbors, becomes friends with a local Indian boy, and tries to hold on to her dream of owning a flower shop.

**When My Name was Keoko** by Linda Sue Park  
With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.
When the Road Ends by Jean Thesman
Sent to spend the summer in the country, three foster children and an older woman recovering from a serious accident are abandoned by their slovenly caretaker and must try to survive on their own.

Willie the Frog Prince by C. S. Adler
In helping his new friend and classmate Marla solve her problems with her unpleasant home life, eleven-year-old Willie finds a greater acceptance of his perfectionist father.

Windcatcher by Avi
While learning to sail during a visit to his grandmother’s at the Connecticut shore, eleven-year-old Tony becomes excited about the rumors of sunken treasure in the area and starts following a couple who seem to be making a mysterious search for something.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck
Sequel to: A Long Way from Chicago. During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

Series

Alex Rider Series by Anthony Horowitz
Alex Rider is not a "typical" teenager. Following the untimely death of his beloved uncle, Alex is recruited by Britain's top-secret intelligence agency to investigate some of the most high profile and dangerous men in the world. Alex is quite reluctant to take on such a huge responsibility, and who can blame him? He's only 14 years old and he has his entire life ahead of him; more importantly, he needs time to mourn his tragic loss. Ultimately though, Alex chooses to accept his mission and help rid the world of evil.

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

The Redwall Series by Brian Jaques
A popular fantasy series about a kingdom of mice that has gripped the imagination of readers. In the first title Redwall, the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes. Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

The Roman Mysteries by Caroline Lawrence
The Roman Mysteries books are a series of historical novels for children. The first book (The Thieves of Ostia) was first published in 2001, and eighteen books are planned. The Roman Mysteries books are historical fiction, with mentions of actual historical figures
such as Pliny the Elder. As of June 2006 a television series is being filmed. The books concern four kids who solve mysteries taking them all over Rome, Greece, and other places.

**Shadow Children Series** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke Garner and other "thirds" (whose very existence is a capital crime) struggle to stay hidden and to gain the right to live.