

# GRADE 7 – SUMMER READING LIST 2011

## FICTION

*\*Alcott, Louisa May*

Little Women

Chronicles the fortunes of four sisters as they grow into young ladies in 19<sup>th</sup>-century New England.

*Anderson, Laurie Halse*

Fever, 1793

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

*Applegate, Katherine*

Sharing Sam

High schoolers and best friends Alison and Iz both fall for Sam, the new boy in town, but when Iz is diagnosed with cancer, Alison must balance her own feelings with thoughts for her friend's happiness

*Avi*

Iron Thunder

Tom's job as an assistant to Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, makes him a target of Confederate spies.

*Avi*

Seer of Shadows

Photographer Horace Carpetine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengeance on those who killed her.

*Baskin, Nora Raleigh*

Anything But Typical

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world.

*# Bloor, Edward*

Tangerine

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly recalls the incident that damaged his eyesight.

*Bunting, Eve*

The Presence

While visiting her grandmother in California, seventeen-year-old Catherine comes in contact with a mysterious stranger who says he can help her contact a friend who died in a car crash for which Catherine feels responsible.

*Clements, Andrew*

Things Not Seen (and sequels)

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

*Collins, Suzanne*

Gregor The Overlander (and sequels)

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

April 2011

\* - **Honors**

# - **Easier Read**

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*Cochrane, Mick*

[The Girl Who Threw Butterflies](#)

Eighth-grader Molly's ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, it helps in other aspects of her life, as well.

*Cummings, Priscilla*

[Red Kayak](#)

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends, J.T. and Digger, become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

*Deaver, Julie Reece*

[Say Goodnight, Gracie](#)

Close friendship between artistic boy and girl who ultimately confronts tragedy.

*Deuker, Carl*

[Night Hoops](#)

While trying to prove that he is good enough to play on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

*Dowd, Sioban*

[The London Eye Mystery](#)

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

*DuPrau, Jeanne*

[The City of Ember](#) (and sequels)

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

*Feinstein, John*

[Change-up](#)

While covering baseball's World Series between the Washington Nationals and the Boston Red Sox, teenage sports reporters Stevie and Susan Carol investigate a rookie pitcher whose evasive answers during an interview reveal more than a few contradictions in his life story.

*\*Funke, Cornelia Caroline*

[Inkheart](#) (and sequels)

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

*\*Funke, Cornelia Caroline*

[The Thief Lord](#)

Orphaned brothers Prosper and Bo, having run away from their cruel aunt and uncle, decide to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children. (Fantasy)

*Gaiman, Neil*

[The Graveyard Book](#)

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

*Gilman, David*

[The Devil's Breath](#) (and sequel)

After fifteen-year-old Max Gordon's environmentalist father goes missing while working in Namibia, Max finds he has become the target of a would-be assassin at his school in England, and decides he must find his father in Africa before they both are killed.

April 2011

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*Goldman, William*

Princess Bride

Story of a beautiful young princess who marries a handsome but less than perfect, prince.

*Goodman, Allegra*

The Other Side Of The Island

Honor, living with her mom and dad on Island 365 in the Tranquil Sea, an environment controlled by the Earth Mother corporation in a post-apocalyptic world, becomes more fearful as she grows older and realizes that her nonconformist parents are putting the entire family at risk.

*Gordon, Roderick*

Tunnels (and sequels)

When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father

*Greenwald, Lisa*

My Life In Pink And Green

When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem-solving talents to come up with a solution that might resuscitate the business, along with helping the environment.

*Halam, Ann*

Dr. Franklins Island

When their plane crashes over the Pacific Ocean, three science students are left stranded on a tropical island and then imprisoned by a doctor performing horrifying experiments on humans, involving the transfer of animal genes.

# *Hiaasen, Carl*

Hoot

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

*Hiaasen, Carl*

Scat

Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

*Kadohata, Cynthia*

A Million Shades of Gray

A boy and his elephant escape into the jungle when the Viet Cong attack his village immediately after the Vietnam war.

# *Kellerhals-Stewart, Heather*

Extreme Edge

Jay is determined to make his name by climbing a tough rock face known as "The Wall" -- solo. No partner, no ropes, no equipment. Little does Jay suspect that it's his own life that will one day hang in the balance.

*Korman, Gordon*

Son of the Mob (and sequels)

Seventeen-year-old Vince's life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent.

\* *London, Jack*

White Fang

The adventures in the northern wilderness of a dog that is part wolf.

April 2011

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# *Lubar, David*

In the Land of the Lawn Weenies

A collection of short stories about kids who find themselves in some strange situations. These stories originally appeared in two volumes: Kidzilla and The Witch's Monkey and other tales.

# *Lubar, David*

My Rotten Life (and sequels)

Tired of continually having his feelings hurt by popular students and bullies, fifth-grader Nathan agrees to try an experimental formula, Hurt-Be-Gone, and becomes a half-dead zombie, a condition which, he soon discovers, has some real advantages.

# *Lupica, Mike*

Travel Team (and other sports titles)

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

*Mackel, Kathryn*

Boost

Thirteen-year-old Savvy's dreams of starting for her elite basketball team are in danger when she is accused of taking steroids.

*Martin, Ann*

A Corner of the Universe

The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at a carnival that comes to Hattie's small town.

# *McClintock, Norah*

Taken

While she is walking home from school Stephanie is grabbed from behind, drugged, and taken to a secret cabin in the woods where she tries to escape her captor and make her way to safety.

*McDonald, Joyce*

Swallowing Stones

Dual perspectives reveal the aftermath of seventeen-year-old Michael Mackenzie's birthday celebration during which he discharges an antique Winchester rifle with disastrous results.

*McMullan, Margaret*

When I Crossed No-Bob

Ten years after the Civil War's end, twelve-year-old Addy, abandoned by her parents, is taken from the horrid town of No-Bob by schoolteacher Frank Russell and his bride, but when her father returns to claim her she must find another way to leave her O'Donnell past behind.

*Myers, Walter Dean*

The Cruisers

Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.

*Myers, Walter Dean*

Hoops

A talented young basketball player and his coach are told to lose a tournament and they must decide what to do.

# *Pearson, Mary*

Scribbler of Dreams

Kaitlin Malone hates the Crutchfields. Her family has feuded with them for generations, and now her dad is in jail for killing one of them. This legacy of hatred has never been questioned--until Kaitlin falls for a Crutchfield boy. As if that's not bad enough, that boy is the son of the man her father murdered.

April 2011

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*Perez, Marlene*

Dead Is The New Black (and sequels)

While dealing with her first boyfriend and suddenly being pressed into service as a substitute cheerleader, seventeen-year-old Daisy Giordano, daughter and sister of psychics but herself a "normal," attempts to help her mother discover who is behind a series of bizarre attacks on teenage girls in their little town of Nightshade, California.

*\*Pullman, Phillip*

The Golden Compass

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua, sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

*Rees, Celia*

Witch Child

In 1659, fourteen-year-old Mary Newbury keeps a journal of her voyage from England to the New World and her experiences living as a witch in a community of Puritans near Salem, Massachusetts.

*Richardson, E.E.*

The Intruders

When soon-to-be stepbrothers, Joel and Tim, start having the same nightmare after moving into an old house, they decide to investigate its source and the many other strange occurrences in their new home.

*Riordan, Rick*

The Lightning Thief (and sequels)

Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

*#Rud, Jeff*

Crossover

Rising basketball star Kyle's interest in theater causes huge problems both on and off the court.

*Shusterman, Neal*

Everlost (and sequel)

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

*Shusterman, Neal*

Full Tilt

When sixteen-year-old Blake goes to a mysterious, by-invitation-only carnival he knows that it could save his comatose brother but soon learns that much more is at stake if he fails to meet the challenge presented there by the beautiful Cassandra.

*Sleator, William*

The Boy Who Couldn't Die

When his best friend dies in a plane crash, sixteen-year-old Ken has a ritual performed that will make him invulnerable, but soon learns that he had good reason to be suspicious of the woman he paid to lock his soul away.

*# Smelcer, John*

The Trap

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

April 2011

\* - **Honors**

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*Smith, Roland*

Peak

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

*Sorrells, Walter*

Fake ID (and sequels)

After a lifetime of moving and assuming new identities, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together the past that haunts her and her mother which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and the secrets of several people in a small Alabama town.

*\*Tolkien, J. R. R.*

The Hobbit, or, There and Back Again

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

*# Trueman, Terry*

Stuck in Neutral (and sequel )

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is trying to kill him.

*VandeVelde, Vivian*

Heir Apparent

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

*# Van Draanen, Wendelin*

Flipped

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

*Vance, Susanna*

Deep

Somewhere in the Caribbean, seventeen-year-old Morgan and thirteen-year-old Birdie, two girls whose lives are worlds apart, are brought together by the maniacal Nicholas.

*Walden, Mark*

H.I.V.E. (and sequel, The Overlord Protocol)

Thirteen-year-old orphan Otto Malpense, identified as a boy with a special talent for villainy, is kidnapped and taken to the remote Higher Institute of Villainous Education, or H.I.V.E., where he is enrolled in a six-year training program and immediately begins formulating a plan to escape.

*\*Wells, H. G.*

The Time Machine

A scientist invents a machine that transports him into the future.

*White, Ellen Emerson*

The Journal of Patrick Seamus Flaherty,  
United States Marine Corps

An eighteen-year-old Marine records in his journal his experiences in Vietnam during the siege of Khe Sanh, 1967-1968. Includes a history of Vietnam, war timeline, glossary, and related military information.

*Whitemore, Arvella*

Trapped Between the Lash and the Gun:  
A Boy's Journey

Twelve-year-old Jordan is becoming dangerously involved with a street gang when he is suddenly transported through time to become a slave on the plantation of his ancestors.

April 2011

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*Williams-Garcia, Rita*

### One Crazy Summer

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

*Yolen, Jane*

### Sword of the Rightful King

Merlinus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England – pulling a sword from a stone – but trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.

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## NON-FICTION

*Adler, David A.*

B. Franklin, Printer

A biography of Benjamin Franklin which emphasizes his many talents as a printer, writer, scientist, inventor, and statesman.

*Aronson, Marc*

If Stones Could Speak

Text, photographs, and explanatory maps and illustrations document archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson's study of Stonehenge and the surrounding area, describing what he found and what the artifacts reveal about the site and its history.

*Armstrong, Jennifer*

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World:  
The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the  
Endurance

Describes the 1914 Shackleton Expedition to the Antarctic and their perilous nine month adventure.

*Calabro, Marian*

The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party

Uses materials from letters and diaries written by survivors of the Donner Party to relate the experiences of that ill-fated group as they endured horrific circumstances on their way to California in 1846-47.

*Capuzzo, Mike*

Close To Shore

Details the first documented cases in American history of sharks attacking swimmers, which occurred along the Atlantic coast of New Jersey in 1916.

*Dahl, Roald*

Boy: Tales of Childhood

Presents humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood which includes summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school.

*Freedman, Russell*

The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the  
Airplane

Follows the lives of the Wright brothers and describes how they developed the first airplane.

*Giblin, James*

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth  
and John Wilkes Booth

Tells the life stories of nineteenth-century actor Edwin Booth and his actor brother John Wilkes Booth, describing the differences between the two men, chronicling John's assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and examining the impact of John's crime on the Booth family for decades afterward.

*Hamilton, Bethany*

Soul Surfer

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.

*Jurmaine, Suzanne*

The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic  
Story of Prudence Crandell and Her Students

Chronicles the life and struggles of Prudence Crandall who, in the 1830s closed her all-white Boarding school for girls in Canterbury, Connecticut, and began admitting African-American Students; and describes the intense opposition from the townspeople

April 2011

\* - Honors

# - Easier Read

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*Lawlor, Laurie*

Helen Keller: Rebellious Spirits

An illustrated biography of Helen Keller, sharing aspects of her personality and sometimes radical beliefs, and discussing her relationship with her teacher Annie Sullivan and other important people in her life and work.

\**Mah, Adeline Yen*

Chinese Cinderella

As “Fifth Younger Sister,” Adeline Yen Mah experiences the harsh life of a stepdaughter at the hands of her father’s new wife.

*Murphy, Jim*

Blizzard: The Storm That Changed America

Factual account of 1888 blizzard that hit northeast, focusing on events in New York City.

*Murphy, Jim*

The Great Fire

Photographs and text, along with personal accounts of actual survivors tell the story of the great fire of 1871 in Chicago.

*Myers, Walter Dean*

The Greatest: Mohammed Ali

An illustrated biography of boxing great Mohammed Ali that addresses his politics, his fight against Parkinson’s disease, and boxing’s dangers.

*Pfetzer, Mark*

Within Reach: My Everest Story

The author describes how he spent his teenage years climbing mountains in the United States, South America, Africa and Asia with an emphasis on his two expeditions up Mount Everest.

*Spinelli, Jerry*

Knots in My Yo-Yo String: The Autobiography of a Kid

This Italian-American Newberry Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

*Swanson, James L.*

Chasing Lincoln’s Killer

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.