

7th-8th Summer Reading

Please select a book *that you have not read before* from your class list below to read over the summer. This reading will form a foundation of class discussion and activity during the first week back at school. If you have any questions, you can email your teacher:

7th grade - Ms. Kelly Nupson

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8th grade – Ms. Emilee Hansel

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List of 7th grade book options

- ***Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan (reading level – 680)
Life was fine for Percy Jackson until he discovers he is the son of the Greek god Poseidon. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.
- ***Beyonders: A World Without Heroes*** by Brandon Mull (reading level – 710)
While volunteering at a zoo, Jason falls through a tunnel and ends up in another world. There he must find not only a way home, but also a way to defeat the malicious emperor and save his new friends. Will he be able to rise to the challenge?
- ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*** by J.K. Rowling (reading level – 880)
After 10 miserable years with his aunt and uncle, Harry Potter is invited to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Will he be able to survive the challenges to fulfil his destiny?
- ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*** by C.S. Lewis (reading level – 940)
While visiting the English countryside, four children wander through a wardrobe and end up in a world of talking animals, an evil witch, and a kingdom in need of rescuing.
- ***The Secret Garden*** by Frances Hodgson Burnett (reading level – 970)
An orphaned girl goes to live at her uncle's mansion on the moors of Yorkshire and finds it full of secrets. One day she discovers a garden walled off and hidden from view. Is everything as it seems or can she bring it back to life again?
- ***The Hatchet*** by Gary Paulsen (reading level – 1020)
Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when his plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness. With nothing but a tattered jacket and a hatchet will he be able to survive?

*parenthesis show book's reading level. We always encourage students to read books at or above their current reading level to grow their abilities!

List of 8th grade book options

- ***Under the Blood Red Sun* by Graham Salisbury** (reading level – 640)
Tomi was born in Hawaii. His grandfather and parents were born in Japan and came to America to escape poverty. World War II seems far away from Tomi and his friends, who are too busy playing ball on their eighth-grade team, the Rats. But then Pearl Harbor is attacked by the Japanese, and the United States declares war on Japan. It's a terrifying time to be Japanese in America. But one thing doesn't change: the loyalty of Tomi's buddies, the Rats.
- ***Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls** (reading level – 700)
Billy, Old Dan and Little Ann -- a Boy and His Two Dogs... A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn, Little Ann had the brains -- and Billy had the will to train them to be the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. An exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.
- ***The Kite Fighters* by Linda Sue Park (author of *A Single Shard*)** (reading level – 880)
In a riveting narrative set in fifteenth-century Korea, two brothers discover a shared passion for kites. Kee-sup can craft a kite unequalled in strength and beauty, but his younger brother, Young-sup, can fly a kite as if he controlled the wind itself. Their combined skills attract the notice of Korea's young king, who chooses Young-sup to fly the royal kite in the New Year kite-flying competition--an honor that is also an awesome responsibility. Although tradition decrees, and the boys' father insists, that the older brother represent the family, both brothers know that this time the family's honor is best left in Young-sup's hands.
- ***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee** (reading level – 870)
“Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep South — and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred.” – Amazon review
- ***Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt** (reading level – 1100)
The unforgettable story of young Jethro Creighton who comes of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War.

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Done with your book and want to read more? Try one of these!

<i>White Fang</i> by Jack London	(reading level 650)
<i>Peter and the Starcatchers</i> by Dave Barry & Pearson Ridley	(reading level 710)
<i>The Bronze Bow</i> by Elizabeth George Speare	(reading level 760)
<i>My Side of the Mountain</i> by Jean C. George	(reading level 810)
<i>Julie of the Wolves</i> by Jean C. George	(reading level 860)
<i>The Cay</i> by Theodore Taylor	(reading level 860)
<i>The Princess Academy</i> by Shannon Hale	(reading level 890)
<i>Caddie Woodlawn</i> by Carol Ryrie Brink	(reading level 890)
<i>Black Beauty</i> by Anna Sewell	(reading level 1010)
<i>Treasure Island</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	(reading level 1070)
<i>Fablehaven Series</i> by Brandon Mull	(reading level 700-800)
<i>A Series of Unfortunate Events</i> by Lemony Snicket	(reading level 900-1100)
<i>The Inheritance Cycle (Eragon)</i> by Christopher Paolini	(reading level 800-1000)

Optional Projects

Sticky Note Breadcrumbs

As you read through your chosen book, place sticky notes at points you think are important to the story. Jot down your thoughts on the sticky note, explaining why you think the event is important. After finishing the book, check your sticky notes to see if your hunches were correct. (Keep your notes in the book for school.)

Character Sketch

Write three paragraphs (4+ sentences each) about a major character in the story. In one paragraph, explain what the character looks like (facial features, age, favorite clothing or accessories, etc.).

In a different paragraph, explain the character's personality. Is he funny? Serious? Organized? Distracted? Smart? Friendly? Brave? Creative? Logical?

In your third paragraph, explain what the character values. What does the character do or say that shows you what he values? Are there any values that impact the plot?

Write a Letter

Write a letter (2-3 paragraphs) to another character or the readers as if you were one of the characters in the book. Describe something exciting that has happened to you or someone that you have met (an event from the story). Talk about a lesson that you learned because of that event or person. Be sure to really get into the character's thoughts.

Comic Strip

Choose one of your favorite scenes from the story and make it into a comic strip that you might find in a graphic novel.

Different Ending

Were you satisfied with the story's outcome? What events might have changed how the story ended? Change at least one key event to write an alternate ending to the story.

Character Poster

Create a poster to show a main character in your book. On the poster, place the character in his or her setting and surround the character with elements from the story. Use color, details, and specific elements from the story when completing this project.

Vocabulary

Are there any words in the book you do not understand? Use a sticky note or journal to write down each word and what you THINK it might mean. Then, look up the words in a dictionary and write their actual definitions. Try using a new word when you talk to your family and friends. Keep a tally of each time you use one!