

## 7th Grade English Summer Reading

This summer, you will read two books in preparation for 7th grade English. (Obviously, if you enjoy reading and have the time, read more!). You will get to choose each of these books; however, one of them must be a book that pushes you out of your comfort zone or your typical reading preferences (more information below). Additionally, you'll let me know at the beginning of summer why you have chosen each of these books.

**Important reminder:** While plenty of people—children, teens, and adults alike—think they don't like reading, I fully believe everyone can enjoy reading if they figure out what type(s) of books they prefer. Of course, there will be times you are assigned a book that you didn't choose and that you might not like; sometimes, that might happen in my class! Your summer reading for 7th grade, though, is a chance to (1) actually choose what you read, (2) help you think about your reading preferences, and (3) practice finding something enjoyable and/or beneficial in reading a book you might not normally pick. Let's make summer reading a nice, additional component of your summer and not something you have to argue with your parents about. :)

# 1

## STEP ONE: CHOOSE YOUR BOOKS

**Book #1:** Pick any **fiction** novel that interests you!

- If you don't consider yourself "a reader" (we'll work on that) or don't feel like you have a favorite genre...
  - Think about what TV shows and movies you like best. Those genres are probably a good place to start when thinking about book genres.
  - Have a friend who is always reading? Ask them for a recommendation. Ask an older sibling or cousin for a recommendation, or an adult (I love reading middle grades/Young Adult books).
  - Look at the book list I have provided (at the end of this document) and Google titles until you come across one whose description interests you.
- For the work we will do with this book at the start of the school year, it will probably be best not to choose a book in the middle of a series (e.g. Book #2 or #3, etc., in a series); the first book of a series would be fine, though.
- Consider the Lexile/suggested grade level of the book.
  - Is it significantly beyond the 7th grade reading level? If so, maybe the challenge intrigues you! However, keep in mind that, if you are struggling after 20 or 30 pages, perhaps move on to another book or reach out to me for comprehension tips.
  - If it is significantly below the 7th grade reading level, be prepared to defend to me why it is still a worthwhile text for you to read this summer. If you get 20 or 30 pages in and find yourself bored, then it's probably too easy for you.

**Book #2:** Pick a book that, in some way, pushes you beyond your comfort zone. This does not mean you should read a book that sounds utterly awful to you, though! Find a book that is a challenge or departure but still has something that intrigues you. **This may be a fiction, non-fiction, or poetry book.**

- You could choose a book that sounds interesting to you but that seems like it will be a challenge (e.g. it's really long, it's above your grade level, it covers a topic you know nothing about).
- You could choose a book that is a genre you don't typically read or even a genre you don't really like.

# 2

## STEP TWO: EMAIL MS. SIMPSON YOUR SELECTIONS

Before you start reading (so, allow several days for me to respond), send me an email telling me which books you are planning to read and why you have chosen each book.

### Components of an Email

- #1: Salutation
- #2: Honorific + Name,
- #3: Greeting
- #4: Content/body
- #5: Sign-off

[#1] Dear [#2] Ms. Simpson,

[#3] This is where you would typically say hello or wish the recipient well. However, do not feel like you have to do that for me here.

[#4] Tell me which books you plan to read and why (i.e. how they meet the assignment requirements).

Truly/Sincerely/Best/Thank you,

Your Name

\*If you change your mind about the books you're going to read, it's no big deal. Just let me know!

# 3

## STEP THREE: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR BOOK

In the first week or two of school, you will discuss your books in writing and orally. This may include writing a literary response (i.e. talking about literary devices, plot features, genre, theme, etc.) and/or a personal reaction/reflection to the texts. You will also discuss the books in small groups. It would be best to annotate (either in the books or on sticky notes or notebook paper) while you read.

### Sources for evaluating a text's reading level and/or contents

- [Lexile Find a Book](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)
- [Goodreads](#)
- [School Library Journal](#)
- [LibraryThing](#)
- [Barnes & Noble](#)

## Some book ideas

\*These books range in reading level and content. If you or your guardian want to be mindful of either of these, be sure to look into the book prior to reading it.

*The Shape of Thunder* by Jasmine Warga  
*We Are Not from Here* by Jenny Torres Sanchez  
*You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson  
*Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt  
*Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo  
*Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga  
*Ain't Burned All the Bright* by Jason Reynolds  
*Full Cicada Moon* Marilyn Hilton  
*Home is Not a Country* by Safia Elhillo  
*Punching the Air* by Yusef Salaam and Ibi Zoboi  
*A High Five for Glenn Burke* by Phil Bildner  
*When Stars Are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson  
*The Princess and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang  
*I Am Alfonso Jones* by Tony Medina  
*Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang  
*Once Upon an Eid* by S.K. Ali  
*Julieta and the Diamond Enigma* by Luisana Duarte Armendariz  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai  
*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia  
*Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper  
*Wink* by Rob Herrell  
*Rebound* by Kwame Alexander  
*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park  
*Refugee* by Alan Gratz  
*Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* by Jason Reynolds  
*Furia* by Yamile Saied Mendez  
*Mosquitoland* by David Arnold  
*Apple in the Middle* by Dawn Quigley  
*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand  
*Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani  
*Brother's Keeper* by Julie Lee  
*Storm Runner* by J.C. Cervantes  
*Tristan Strong Destroys the World* by Kwame Mbalia  
*I Love You So Mochi* by Sarah Kuhn  
*The Candle and the Flame* by Nafiza Azad  
*If I Ever Get Out of Here* by Eric Gansworth  
*Sparrow* by Sarah Moon  
*Spin* by Lamar Giles  
*Playing a Part* by Daria Wilke  
*Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan  
*Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata  
*Inside-Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

*Flamer* by Mike Curato  
*Barely Missing Everything* by Matt Mendez  
*Booked* by Kwame Alexander  
*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds  
*Here to Stay* by Sara Farizan  
*Furia* by Yamile Saied Mendez  
*The Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson  
*Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas  
*In the Wild Light* by Jeff Zentner  
*Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley  
*The Cost of Knowing* by Brittney Morris  
*A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi  
*Like a Love Story* by Abdi Nazemian  
*Love from A to Z* by S.K. Ali  
*Jackpot* by Nic Stone  
*Opposite of Always* by Justin A. Reynolds  
*Love, Hate, & Other Filters* by Samira Ahmed  
*Slay* by Brittney Morris  
*The Only Black Girls in Town* by Brandy Colbert  
*All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson  
*Towers Falling* by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
*El Deafo* by Cece Bell  
*Ophie's Ghosts* by Justina Ireland  
*The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden  
*Ghost Squad* by Claribel A. Ortega  
*Parachutes* by Kelly Yang  
*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz  
*Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca  
*We Dream of Space* by Erin Entrada Kelly  
*The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore  
*Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero* by Saadia Faruqi  
*All American Boys* by Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds  
*Let Me Hear a Rhyme* by Tiffany D. Jackson  
*Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate  
*The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo  
*Jackpot: All Bets Are Off* by Nic Stone  
*Blended* by Sharon M. Draper  
*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia  
*Take Back the Block* by Chrystal D. Giles  
*Keep It Together, Keiko Carter* by Debbi M. Florence  
*Finding Junie Kim* by Ellen Oh  
*The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar  
*Stand Up, Yumi Chung!* By Jessica Kim  
*Patron Saints of Nothing* by Randy Ribay  
*Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender  
*Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson  
*Raybearer* by Jordan Ifueko

*Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone  
*This Poison Heart* by Kalynn Bayron  
*Sanctuary* by Paola Mendoza  
*The Insiders* by Mark Oshiro  
*Just Mercy Adapted for Young Adults* by Bryan Stevenson  
*They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott  
*Anger is a Gift* by Mark Oshiro  
*Dress Coded* by Carrie Firestone  
*Hurricane Child* by Kacen Callender  
*Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone  
*Here to Stay* by Sara Farizan  
*They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera  
*Nyxia* by Scott Reintgen  
*I Can Make this Promise* by Christine Day  
*The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline  
*Paradise on Fire* by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
*Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn  
*Trevor Noah Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah  
*Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi  
*Blackout* by Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon  
*Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World* by Ashley Herring Blake  
*Elatsoe* by Darcie Little Badger  
*Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone  
*Sadie* Courtney Summers  
*Internment* by Samira Ahmed  
*A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramee  
*Scythe* by Neal Shusterman  
*Odd One Out* by Nic Stone  
*Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
*The Astonishing Color of After* by Emily X.R. Pan  
*Time Bomb* by Joelle Charbonneau  
*57 Bus* by Dashka Slater  
*Before the Ever* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*The Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling  
*The Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley  
*Soft Place to Land* by Janae Marks  
*A Place at the Table* by Laura Shovan and Saadia Faruqi  
*Like Vanessa* by Tami Charles  
*Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan  
*Not So Pure and Simple*  
*The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya  
*Barely Missing Everything* by Matt Mendez  
*The Bridge Home* by T.V. Padma  
*From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks  
*Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams  
*Isaiah Dunn is My Hero* by Kelly J. Baptist  
*Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert

*Early Departures* by Justin A. Reynolds  
*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang  
*The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez  
*Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina  
*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed  
*Some Places More than Others* by Renee Watson  
*Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen  
*The Last Day of Summer* by Lamar Giles  
*The Gilded Ones* by Namina Forna  
*The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes  
*Why We Fly* by Gilly Segal and Kimberly Jones  
*Dancing at the Pity Party* by Tyler Feder  
*Starfish* by Lisa Fipps  
*Violets are Blue* by Barabara Dee  
*When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller  
*Hearts Unbroken* by Cynthia Leitich Smith  
*A Different Mirror for Young People: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald Takaki  
*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi  
*Into the Sun* by Lisa Graff  
*Black Panther: The Young Prince* by Ronald L. Smith  
*Dry* by Jarod Shusterman and Neal Shusterman  
*White Smoke* by Tiffany D. Jackson