

## 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 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! However, this is a chance (1) to actually choose what you read, (2) to 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. :)

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### 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 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 will probably be fine.
- 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! 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 don't really like.

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## **STEP TWO: EMAIL MS. SIMPSON YOUR SELECTIONS**

Before you start reading (so, allow several days for me to respond)...

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| Components of an email |
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## **STEP THREE: BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR BOOK**

In the first week or two of school...

- In writing: literary response (literary devices, plot features, etc.)
- In writing: personal reaction
- Verbally: in small groups based on genre or theme

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## **Sources for evaluating a text's reading level**

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### **Some book ideas**

*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*  
*Ain't Burned All the Bright*  
*Full Cicada Moon*  
*Home is Not a Country*  
*Punching the Air*  
*The Poet X*  
*A High Five for Glenn Burke*  
*When Stars Are Scattered*  
*The Princess and the Dressmaker*  
*Maus*  
*I Am Alfonso Jones*  
*Dragon Hoops*  
*Once Upon an Eid*  
*The Diamond Enigma*  
*Brother's Keeper*  
*Storm Runner*  
*Tristan Strong Destroys the World*  
*I Love You So Mochi*

*The Candle and the Flame*  
*If I Ever Get Out of Here*  
*Sparrow*  
*Cicada*  
*Spin*  
*Playing a Part*  
*Counting by 7s*  
*Kira-Kira*  
*Inside-Out and Back Again*  
*American Born Chinese*  
*Flamer*  
*Barely Missing Everything*  
*Booked*  
*Ghost*  
*Here to Stay*  
*Furia*  
*The Good Girl's Guide to Murder*  
*Cemetery Boys*  
*In the Wild Light*  
*The Cost of Knowing*  
*A Large Expanse of Sea*  
*Like a Love Story*  
*Love from A to Z*  
*Not Your Perfect American Daughter*  
*Jackpot*  
*Opposite of Always*  
*Dear, Martine*  
*Love, Hate, & Other Filters*  
*Slay*  
*The Only Black Girls in Town*  
*All Boys Aren't Blue*  
*Towers Falling*  
*El Deafo*  
*Ophie's Ghosts*  
*The Benefits of Being an Octopus*  
*Ghost Squad*  
*Parachutes*  
*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*  
*Red, White, and Whole*  
*We Dream of Space*  
*The Stars Beneath Our Feet*  
*Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero*  
*All American Boys*  
*Let Me Hear a Fhyme*  
*Wishtree*  
*Jackpot: All Bets Are Off*  
*Blended*  
*Take Back the Block*  
*Keep It Together, Keiko Carter*  
*The Hate U Give*  
*Finding Junie Kim*

*The Henna Wars*  
*Stand Up, Yumi Chung*  
*Patron Saints of Nothing*  
*Felix*  
*Monday's Not Coming*  
*Raybearer*  
*Akata Witch*  
*Clean Getaway*  
*This Poison Heart*  
*Sanctuary*  
*The Insiders*  
*Just Mercy Adapted for Young Adults*  
*They Called Us Enemy*  
*Anger is a Gift*  
*Dress Coded*  
*Hurricane Child*  
*Fast Pitch*  
*Here to Stay*  
*They Both Die at the End*  
*Nyxia*  
*I can Make this Promise*  
*The Marrow Thieves*  
*Paradise on Fire*  
*Legend Born*  
*Trevor Noah Born a Crime*  
*Pet*  
*Blackout*  
*Aberdeen's Letter to the World*  
*New Kid*  
*Elatsoe*  
*Dear Justyce*  
*Sadie*  
*Internment*  
*A Good Kind of Trouble*  
*Scythe*  
*Odd One Out*  
*Ghost Boys*  
*The Astonishing Color of After*  
*Time Bomb*  
*57 Bus*  
*Before the Ever*  
*The Canyon's Edge*  
*The Fire Keeper's Daughter*  
*Soft Place to Land*  
*A Place at the Table*  
*Like Vanessa*  
*Amina's Voice*  
*Not So Pure and Simple*  
*The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*  
*Barely Missing Everything*  
*The Bridge Home*

*From the Desk of Zoe Washington*  
*Genesis Begins Again*  
*Isaiah Dunn is My Hero*  
*After Lunch*  
*Black Birds in the Sky*  
*Early Departures*  
*Front Desk*  
*The First Rule of Punk*  
*Merci Suarez Changes Gears*  
*Amal Unbound*  
*Some Places More than Others*  
*Magic Fish*  
*The Last Day of Summer*  
*The Gilded Ones*  
*The Inheritance Games*  
*Why We Fly*  
*Dancing at the Pity Party*  
*Star Fish*  
*Violets are Blue*  
*When You Trap a Tiger*  
*Hearts Unbroken*  
*A Different Mirror*  
*Children of Blood and Bone*  
*On the Come Up*  
*Into the Sun*  
*Black Panther the Young Prince*  
*Dry*  
*White Smoke*  
*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  
*Piecing Me Together* by Jasmine Warga  
*Almost American Girl* by Robin Hard  
*Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri  
*Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand  
*Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani