

Summer Reading Assignments 7th Grade

Read **two** books from the appropriate grade level book list, as well as **two** freely-chosen books which do not have to be on the list. Complete one of these assignments for each book you read. Remember to include your name and grade on all assignments. Use any of the following assignments no more than twice. If you've already read a book on the list, you may read its sequel.

1. Design a book jacket. Remember to include title and author. See book jackets at your library for ideas.
2. Write a radio or television commercial advertising the book you've read. This should be short—remember, commercial spots are usually thirty seconds or less.
3. Create a collage showing scenes, characters or ideas from the book.
4. Write a book review. Write no more than two paragraphs about the story or content of the book, and one paragraph about what you liked best—or least—about the book.
5. Write an epilogue to the book you've read, describing what you think might have happened after the events in the book.

Interested in other books to read over the summer?

Help finding extra books to read, as well as more summer reading activities, may be found at your local public library. For information and book lists, see <http://www.njsummerreading.org>.

7th Grade

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*.

What is it like for a 12-year-old girl living under a ruthless dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960? Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of General Trujillo.

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.

Avi. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.

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.

Bloor, Edward. *Story Time*.

George and Kate are promised the best education available, but instead face obsessed administrators, endless tests, and evil spirits when they are transferred to Whittaker Magnet School.

Chodolenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*.

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen*.

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.

Hesse, Karen. *Stowaway*.

A fictionalized diary relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor, which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook.

Levine, Gail Carson. *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*.

Meryl is the adventurous sister, and Addie the timid one. When Meryl falls ill, it's up to Addie to brave specters, griffins and dragons to try to save her sister.

Konigsberg, E. L. *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*.

While waiting in Heaven for divine judgment to be passed on her second husband, Eleanor of Aquitaine (twelfth century queen of England) and three of the people who knew her well recall the events of her life.

Korman, Gordon. *No More Dead Dogs*.

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play, where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well. If you hate books in which the dog dies, this one's for you.

McWhorter, Diane. *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968*.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist weaves memories of growing up white in the South into a fascinating history of protest, hatred, and courage.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Schernoff Discoveries*.

Harold and his best friend, both hopeless geeks and social misfits, try to survive unusual science experiments, the attacks of the football team and other dangers of junior high school.

Pratchett, Terry. *The Wee Free Men*.

In Discworld (where the world is a flat disc, rather than a sphere), nine-year-old Tiffany sets off to Fairyland to rescue her brother – armed only with a frying pan and a clan of six-inch-high blue men.

Ruby, Laura. *Lily's Ghosts*.

Strange goings-on at her great-uncle's summer home in Cape May, New Jersey, draw Lily and a new friend into a mystery involving lost treasure, a fake medium, and ghosts of all sizes, shapes, and dispositions.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*.

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert, where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *The Unseen*.

Feeling angry and out-of-place in her large family, twelve-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghostly, sometimes frightening, phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly.

Walker, Sally M. *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley*.

In 1864 the H. L. Hunley became the first submarine to sink an enemy ship. It then vanished. For 131 years, the Hunley's fate remained a mystery.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*.

Seventh grader Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.