



Summer Reading List *for* Students Entering 7th Grade

7th Grade

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REQUIRED READING

A Mango Shaped Space

by

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Thirteen-year-old Mia has a secret: for as long as she can remember, letters and numbers have had colors for her, and sounds have had both colors and shapes. A neurologist finally tells her she has a harmless condition called synesthesia. But because she has kept it a secret from everyone, she appears to be the most normal kid in her family. Her younger brother Zack keeps a chart of all the McDonald's hamburgers he's eaten in his lifetime. Her older sister Beth dyes her hair a different color every week and might be a witch. When trouble in the school finally convinces Mia to reveal her secret, she feels like a freak; and as she embarks on an intense journey of self-discovery, her family and friends have trouble relating to her. By the time she realizes she has isolated herself from all the people who care about her, it is almost too late. Mia has to lose something very special in order to understand and appreciate her special gift.



Dear Parents,

Ah! The freedom of summer. I hope your family makes the time to REST, RELAX and READ! Most importantly I hope your child finds books that they ENJOY. Reading skills are built when children read a wide variety of genres and formats. Within each grade level, reading skills and interests can vary tremendously. This book list is designed to help your child find books that interest and inspire them to read for pleasure.

It is also designed to balance personal reading with required reading. **Students are expected to read at least three books before school begins.** Students are required to read **the core novel, *A Mango Shaped Space***, **one** book from the ESK summer reading list, and **one** book of their choice.

Best wishes for a great read,

Mrs. Clark

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**Students entering 7th Grade
are expected to read for
30 minutes a day.**

**More Great Middle School Reads can be
found at the UW Cooperative Children's
Book Center**

<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=165>

Realistic Fiction

Ms. Bixby's Last Day John David Anderson. When Ms. Bixby tells her sixth-grade class that she has cancer and will be leaving before the school year ends, her students are stunned. But the following week, when they learn that she's already gone into the hospital to start treatment several days early, three boys swing into action, carrying out an ambitious (and mostly legal) plan to create a grand gesture of appreciation, bravado, and connection.

Counting by 7's Holly Goldberg Sloan. Willow Chance narrates the strange and heartbreaking circumstances that lead her to find an offbeat family. The precocious genius knows that she is different, but her parents love and support her idiosyncrasies and her obsession with the number seven. That selfassuredness shines through Willow's narrative and becomes crucial to her survival as she learns lessons about resourcefulness, community, and true resilience in the face of loss.

Fantasy

Splendors and Glooms Laura Amy Schlitz. When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

The Graveyard Book Neil Gaiman. It takes a graveyard to raise a child. Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy--an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack--who has already killed Bod's family.

History and Mystery

The Shakespeare Stealer Gary Blackwood. Widge, an orphan born in 1587, is apprenticed to Dr. Bright, inventor of a shorthand system that he teaches to Widge, unwittingly making Widge and his skill very valuable.

The Whizmob and the Grenadine Kid Colin Meloy. Charlie Fisher witnesses a group of pickpockets pull off an amazing robbery, then defends one of their cannons, Amir, to the police, under one condition: he teach Charlie the tricks of the trade. What starts off as a lesson on pinches soon turns into a dangerous adventure with global stakes.

True Stories

The Boys in the Boat (Young Person's ed.) Daniel James Brown Tells the story of the historic, Olympian rowing team from Washington state who beat all the odds.

Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House authorized graphic biography Sid Jacobson The first authorized graphic biography of Anne Frank.

I Will Always Write Back Catlin Alifrenka & Martin Ganda. The true story of an all American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.

They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan Benson Deng. The story of three young men who as children in the late 1980's were forced from their homes by war in the Sudan.

Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption Katie J. Davis. Katie left home at the age of eighteen for a short missions trip to Uganda.

Characters with Special Needs

Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess Shari Green. Dealing with her mother remarrying to a man with twin daughters and her family moving, deaf sixth-grader Macy is told that she must help her elderly neighbor Iris Gillan, who is also getting ready to move to a nursing home.

Sports Stories

Rebound Kwamee Alexander
A novel in verse visits the childhood of Chuck "Da Man" Bell during one pivotal summer when young Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents where he discovers basketball and learns more about his family's past.

