



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**  
**Summer Reading List**  
**For Students Entering Grade 7**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
<u>Skellig</u>	Almond	Michael was looking forward to moving into a new house, but now his baby sister is ill, his parents are frantic. Michael feels helpless. Michael's world changes forever when he steps into the crumbling garage... What is this thing beneath the spiders' webs and dead flies? Human being, or a strange kind of beast never seen before?
<u>The Underneath</u>	Appelt	Chained and starved by cruel trapper Gar Face, lonely hound Ranger find: companions in a stray cat and her two kittens. When Mother Cat falls victim to Gar Face's abuse, the surviving animals, especially sensitive kitten Puck, struggle to keep their makeshift family together. The animals' caring, generous bonds juxtapose with the smothering love of an ancient shape-shifter in a moving parallel story.
<u>Nothing But the Truth</u>	Avi	A ninth grader suspended from school for humming "The Star Spangled Banner" during homeroom finds his actions the focus of a national news story.
<u>An Early Winter</u>	Bauer	When his beloved grandfather develops Alzheimer's disease, Tim tries to restore him by taking him on an adventure that may be too much for both of them.
<u>Warriors Don't Cry</u>	Beals	Beals was one of nine students chosen to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. This is her painful and honest account of the trials she endured that year. The details are both shocking and moving.
<u>The Shakespeare Stealer</u>	Blackwood	Widge, a fourteen-year-old orphan is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe and steal the script of <i>Hamlet</i> ; instead he finds the meaning of friendship and loyalty in this mystery with cliff hanger chapter endings.
<u>Williwaw</u>	Bodett	Thirteen-year-old September and her younger brother disobey their father when they take a boat out on the bay, where they are caught in a terrifying Alaskan storm called a williwaw.
<u>The Moves Make the Man</u>	Brooks	An explosive friendship produces fast action on and off the basketball court.

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<u>All-American Girl</u>	Cabot	This modern day fairy tale of a sophomore girl who stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed teen ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the First Son, is pure fun.
<u>Cheating Lessons</u>	Cappo	When her team is announced as a finalist in the state's Classics Bowl contest, Bernadette faces a moral dilemma as she suspects that cheating may have been involved.
<u>Between a Rock and a Hard Place</u>	Carter	A canoe trip through Minnesota's lake country becomes a fight for survival for Mark and his diabetic cousin.
<u>A Week in the Woods</u>	Clements	Mark didn't ask to move to New Hampshire. Or to go to a hick school like Hardy Elementary. And he certainly didn't request Mr. Maxwell as his teacher. Mr. Maxwell doesn't like rich kids, or slackers, or know-it-alls. And he's decided that Mark is all of those things. The Week in the Woods is not what anyone planned. Especially not Mr. Maxwell. With his uncanny knack to reach right to the heart of kids, Andrew Clements asks -- and answers -- questions about first impressions, fairness, loyalty, and courage -- and exactly what it takes to spend <i>A Week in the Woods</i> .
<u>Heartbeat</u>	Creech	Running is what twelve-year-old Annie loves to do. When she's barefoot and running, she can hear her heart beating. It's a rhythm that makes sense in a year when everything's shifting. Everything is changing, just like the apple Annie's been assigned to draw a hundred times. A young girl begins to understand the many rhythms of life and how she fits within them.
<u>Matilda Bone</u>	Cushman	Fourteen-year-old Matilda works as an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in the Medieval English village.
<u>Earthquake</u>	Duey	Two young strangers struggle to survive the terror of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.
<u>Breaking Point</u>	Flinn	In a compelling look at bullying and school violence, fifteen-year-old Paul, desperate to fit into his new, exclusive, private school, falls under the spell of a charismatic classmate, who exacts a high price for his friendship.

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<u>The Thief Lord</u>	Funke	Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious character who calls himself the "Thief Lord." Brilliant and charismatic, the Thief Lord leads a ring of street children who dabble in petty crimes. Prosper and Bo relish being part of this colorful new family. But the Thief Lord has secrets of his own. And soon the boys are thrust into circumstances that will lead them, and readers, to a fantastic, spellbinding conclusion.
<u>Tom Cringle: Battle on the High Seas</u>	Hausman	During the War of 1812, a thirteen-year-old officer in the British navy records in his logbook his capture by pirates off the coast of Jamaica.
<u>Crossing the Wire</u>	Hobbs	Ever since his family moved to the tiny village of Los Árboles, Victor has been best friends with Rico. When Rico tells him that he has enough money to pay for a coyote to help him cross into El Norte, Victor is unable to decide if he, too, should go along and look for work or try to feed his family with the pitiful annual corn harvest. Readers suffer with the 15-year-old as he makes his painful decision to leave his mother and younger siblings and attempts the dangerous border crossing, jumping trains, fleeing thieves and border officials, and suffering from thirst and hunger. His desperation and fear are completely believable as he faces near-death situations and must decide whom to trust.
<u>James Printer: A Novel of Rebellion</u>	Jacobs	James, a Nipmuck Indian and printer's apprentice to a Massachusetts family, is torn between his craft and his people when war breaks out between local tribes and colonial settlers.
<u>Danger Zone</u>	Klass	A high school hoop star, recruited for the American Dream Team, arrives in Italy and finds himself in the middle of a sea of hatred and racism.
<u>The Girls</u>	Koss	Maya has no idea what went wrong, but overnight her so-called friends have abandoned her, excluding her from their group. This book offers a realistic portrayal of middle class cliques.
<u>Beyond the Burning Time</u>	Lasky	In the winter of 1691, accusations of witchcraft surface in a small New England village, and twelve-year-old Mary Chase must fight to save her mother from execution.

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<u>Rules</u>	Lord	Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). Each chapter title is also a rule, and lots more are interspersed throughout the book. When Kristi moves in next door, Catherine hopes that the girl will become a friend, but is anxious about her reaction to David. Then Catherine meets and befriends Jason, a nonverbal paraplegic who uses a book of pictures to communicate, she begins to understand that normal is difficult, and perhaps unnecessary, to define. Rules of behavior are less important than acceptance of others.
<u>Heat</u>	Lupica	Michael's the best Little League pitcher in the district, and seems destined to lead his all-star team to the championship game, which will be held inside Yankee Stadium, with a trip to the Little League World Series on the line. But all that changes when a jealous rival coach challenges whether Michael is as young as he claims. Placed on the sidelines, Michael desperately tries to find a way to get his birth certificate from Cuba while at the same time keeping social services from finding out that he and his older brother are living on their own following the recent death of their beloved papi. Michael needs all the help he can get from his best friend Manny and from a beautiful, mysterious girl he meets at the baseball field.
<u>Travel Team</u>	Lupica	Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured. Travel Team is an inspirational tale in the tradition of The Bad News Bears and Hoosiers. It will leave readers of all ages cheering.
<u>The Kite Rider</u>	McCaughrean	In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.
<u>Shades of Simon Gray</u>	McDonald	Seventeen-year-old computer whiz Simon Gray crashes into an ancient oak tree, unleashing a strange chain of events that eventually solves a modern mystery and also illuminates the facts of a two-hundred-year-old crime.
<u>My Dog Skip</u>	Morris	In 1943, in a sleepy town on the banks of the Yazoo River, a boy fell in love with a puppy with a lively gait and an intelligent way of listening. The two grew up together, having the most wonderful adventures. A classic story of boy, a dog, and small-town America.

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<u>The Journal of Biddy Owens</u>	Myers	This book gives a fictional account of the pervasive racism encountered by athletes who were denied the chance to play in the major leagues. It is also a story of the difficulties/layoffs blacks experienced at the end of World War II.
<u>Revenge of the Whale</u>	Philbrick	In 1820, the whaleship Essex was rammed and sunk by an angry whale, leaving the crew stranded in the Pacific Ocean. Through first-hand accounts of the surviving sailors, Philbrick recreates a great true adventure story.
<u>The Story of King Arthur and His Knights</u>	Pyle	According to Merlin's prophecy, Arthur extracts the sword from the stone, becomes the King of Britain, and, along with his knights, moves from court to combat with much intrigue and adventure.
<u>After the Dancing Days</u>	Rostkowski	The impact of World War I is just beginning for Annie when she befriends a wounded and bitter young veteran.
<u>The Wednesday Wars</u>	Schmidt	On Wednesday afternoons, while his Catholic and Jewish schoolmates attend religious instruction, Holling Hoodhood, the only Presbyterian in his seventh grade, is alone in the classroom with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who Holling is convinced hates his guts. Mrs. Baker is too good to be true: she arranges a meeting between Holling and the New York Yankees, brokers a deal to save a student's father's architectural firm, and, after revealing her past as an Olympic runner, coaches Holling to the varsity cross-country team.
<u>Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen</u>	Sheldon	When she moves from New York City, to the cultural wasteland of Dellwood, New Jersey, Lola decides to challenge the most popular girl for the lead in the school play, in this hilarious celebration of high school life.
<u>Taking Sides</u>	Soto	A fourteen-year-old has recently moved from a poor Hispanic neighborhood to a more affluent white one. When his new school's basketball team plays his former team, his internal struggle over loyalties are intense.
<u>Haveli</u>	Staples	The sequel to <i>Shabanu</i> continues the story of a young Pakistani woman and her passionate struggle against the traditions of an ancient past.
<u>The Light Beyond the Forest</u>	Sutcliff	This is a retelling of the adventures of King Arthur's Knights as they search for the Holy Grail.
<u>The Prince and the Pauper</u>	Twain	The fates of two boys who look exactly alike become intertwined; one is poor; one is of royal family.

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