

Junior High Suggested Summer Reading
Summer 2009
Seventh Grade List

7th grade Fiction:

Allison, Jennifer. Gilda Joyce: The Ghost Sonata. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2007.

Gilda Joyce's best friend Wendy Choy qualifies to compete in an international piano competition in Oxford, England, and Gilda is determined to go as well--as a page turner. While there they solve a mystery directly involving Wendy.

Coulombis, Audrey. Maude March: On the Run!. New York: Random House, 2008.

Due to a misunderstanding over her involvement in a botched robbery, Maude, with her younger sister Sallie, hides out at the home of her uncle; but when she is discovered and arrested, the orphaned sisters flee, trying to clear Maude's name.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. Elijah of Buxton. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007.

Elijah Freeman, the first child born free in Buxton, Canada, tries to catch a thief who stole money meant to buy a family's freedom, chasing him back into the United States and risking his own freedom along the way.

Grant, K.M. Blood Red Horse. New York: Walker Publishing Co., 2004.

A special horse named Hosana changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusades.

Han, Jenny. Shug. New York: Simon & Schuster Children's, 2006.

A girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South.

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody. Spin the Bottle. New York: Dial, 2008.

Phoebe Hart is looking forward to middle school. With her best friend, Harper, by her side Phoebe joins the Drama Club. Things get complicated and don't go exactly like Phoebe had envisioned, especially when she finds out that the theater cast traditionally plays Spin the Bottle on opening night.

Korman, Gordon. Schooled. New York: Hyperion P, 2007.

Capricorn Anderson is 13 and has never been to school, never watched TV, and doesn't even own a phone. He lives with his hippie grandmother on a farm commune. After an accident sends his grandmother to rehab for several weeks, Cap goes to stay with a

social worker and her daughter where he has his first experience with a public middle school.

Landy, Derek. Skulduggery Pleasant. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2007. (3x)

Skulduggery Pleasant is a detective who is also a sharp dresser, drives a hot car, can throw fire, and, by the way, is a skeleton. He teams up with Stephanie to investigate the mysterious death of Stephanie's uncle and Skulduggery's friend, which leads them into some strange and unexplainable happenings. In the course of their search, the two uncover evil plots and beings that aim to take over the world.

Law, Ingrid. Savvy. Boston: Walton Media, 2008

In the Beaumont family turning thirteen is a very special thing. When the Beaumonts turn thirteen years old, their "savvy" or magical power appears. Mississippi, better known as Mibs for short, is about to celebrate her 13th birthday when her father is seriously injured in a car accident. On the way to "save" her dad, Mibs encounters many adventures and surprises and learns what her true "savvy" is.

Mass, Wendy. Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life. New York: Little, Brown, 2006.

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box -- set aside by his father before his death five years earlier -- that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

Michaels, Rune. The Reminder. New York: Ginne Seo Books, 2008.

Steven and Daze are both still mourning Rose's death three years earlier. Having discovered that Steven has created an artificial intelligence program which speaks in Rose's voice and is attached to a robotic head modeled on Rose, Daze begins sneaking into Steven's workshop to spend time with "Mom." When Steven starts spending time with a new woman, Daze is afraid of losing her mom all over again. She steals the head and computer program, although she knows it is just a matter of time before Steven figures out what she has done.

Patterson, James. Maximum Ride: the Angel Experiment. New York: Little, Brown, 2005.

After the "mutant" Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "bird kids" who are a result of genetic experimentation take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

Rud, Jeff. Paralyzed. Custer, WA: Orca Book, 2008.

Reggie Scott, a senior at Lincoln High School, is a hard-hitting middle linebacker. Reggie intercepts a pass, then is tackled by Nate Brown from the opposing team. Nate doesn't

get up after the play and is transported to the hospital with a spinal injury. Reggie is accused of being a "dirty" player and consumed with guilt.

Scott, Michael Dylan. The Alchemyst: the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel. New York: Delacorte Press, 2007.

For twins Sophie and Josh summer was supposed to be filled with part-time jobs while they waited for the return of their archeologist parents, but after stepping into the middle of a magical battle, those plans change drastically. Now Sophie and Josh are on the run and facing creatures that only exist in mythology or nightmares.

Smith, Roland. Elephant Run. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2007.

The year is 1941, and Nick's mother sends him to Burma to avoid the bombing in London. But, things go from bad to worse very quickly! His father runs a teak plantation that is soon overtaken by the Japanese. The Japanese proceed to use the elephants (which had been used to move the teak) to help build an airplane runway. Nick, his father, and their friends are soon taken prisoner. Can they escape before it is too late?

Spinelli, Jerry. Smiles to Go. New York: Joanna Cotler Books, 2008.

After hearing about the first recorded instance of proton decay, ninth-grader Will Tuppence begins to examine his relationship with eternity. If protons are not forever, then nothing is. Does anything matter then? At the same time, Will is confronted with many things that matter a great deal to him, such as his feelings for Mi-Su and Mi-Su's feelings for other boys, including BT. Then Tabby, Will's five-year-old attention seeking little sister, is severely injured, and nothing else seems to matter.

Welden, Mark. H.I.V.E. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.

H.I.V.E. stands for Higher Institute of Villainous Education, an academy where hand-picked students are trained to become the super villain leaders of the world's future governments, businesses, and financial institutions. When first-year student Otto Malpense discovers that he's not allowed to leave H.I.V.E., he takes that as a challenge and begins to plot with some other classmates to be the first students to successfully break out.

7th grade Nonfiction:

Fleischman, Sid. Trouble Begins at 8: a Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2008.

Interesting biography describing Twain's writing career and lectures. Information is included about his early life and travels. Photographs add to this books appeal.

Halls, Kelly Milner. Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures that May or May Not Exist. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Publishing, 2006.

Delves into the science and fiction behind mythological creatures such as Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, giant squids, and many more.

Kehret, Peg. Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio. Morton Grove, Illinois: Albert Whitman & Co., 1996.

The author describes her battle against polio when she was twelve and thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

Lassieur, Allison. The Attack on Pearl Harbor: An Interactive History Adventure. New York: Capstone P, Incorporated, 2009.

Taking an interactive approach to history, this book recreates the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Readers can follow the action from the perspectives of a Japanese bomber pilot, a United States Navy sailor, or a United States Navy nurse. At important points in the narrative, readers decide which story path to take, showing how the choices individuals made on that day affected their success and survival.

Pascoe, Elaine. Fooled You! Fakes and Hoaxes Through the Years. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2005.

This book recounts eleven different hoaxes that occurred throughout the years. Each story details a specific hoax and then provides information on how the hoax was actually performed.

Rosen, Michael. Balls!. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek, 2006.

Learn about the balls used in basketball, soccer, football, tennis, handball, golf, volleyball, and ping pong. Learn how they are made, what they are made of, their history and fun facts about each one.

Steffoff, Rebecca. Robots. New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2008.

Presents the history of mechanical devices created to do the work of humans from ancient times through modern day and looks at the legends and myths about robots developed in popular literature and films.

Walker, Sally M. Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2005.

Presents the history of the Civil War submarine the H.L. Hunley, including the construction, mysterious sinking, recovery, and restoration.

Yolen, Jane. Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World. Grand Rapids: Charlesbridge, Incorporated, 2008.

Examines the history and motives of female pirates and the social contradictions based on their time periods.