

UPCOMING 7th GRADE SUMMER READING LIST 2008

Directions: Please choose **THREE** books from the lists below: **TWO** fiction books and **ONE** non-fiction book. Do not choose books you have already read or on which you have already taken an AR test.

FICTION:

Codes: RF – Realistic Fiction
HF – Historical Fiction
AD - Adventure
SF – Science Fiction

THE HOBBIT, J.R.R. Tolkien Fantasy

DOWN A DARK HALL, Lois Duncan Mystery

WHITE FANG, Jack London AD

SASQUATCH, Roland Smith SF

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JANIE, Caroline B. Cooney RF

SMALL STEPS, Louis Sachar RF

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE, Peter Abrahams AD Mystery

THE GOBLIN WOOD, Hilari Bell Fantasy

BRIAN'S HUNT, Gary Paulsen RF

BRISNGR, Christopher Paolini Fantasy

FIRST LIGHT, Rebecca Stead AD

RUBY IN THE SMOKE, Philip Pullman Mystery

MANIAC MAGEE, Jerry Spinelli AD

DICEY'S SONG, Cynthia Voigt RF

BLOOD RED HORSE, K.M. Grant HF

THE GADGET, Paul Zindel SF

THE ALCHEMIST, Paulo Coelho

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, Agatha Christie Mystery

HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY & NEVER BE FOUND,
Sara Nickerson

PEAK, Roland Smith

NON-FICTION – PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

***GORILLAS IN THE MIST*, Dian Fossey**

***THE CAGE*, Ruth Minsky Sender**

***DANIEL'S STORY*, Carol Motas**

***FAREWELL TO MANZANAR*, Jeanne Watatsuki Houston & James D.
Houston**

***BORN FREE*, Joy Adamson**

***EXPLORERS WHO GOT LOST*, Diane Dreher**

***RIMSHOTS: BASKETBALL PIX & ROLLS*, Charles R. Smith**

Students should select the required number of books and complete their reading over the summer holidays. No written reports should be done on the selected books during this time. On their return to school at the beginning of the fall semester, students will account for their reading by producing a book report on one of the texts, a book blurb on a second work, and an oral report on a third. All the reports will be done in literature class.

7TH GRADE SUMMER READING LIST - BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

THE HOBBIT

A fantasy / quest story of a hobbit, Mr. Bilbo, and his exciting one-year adventure into the unknown and dangerous world over the edge of the Wild.

DOWN A DARK HALL

Kit Gordy and three other students at an exclusive boarding school for girls find themselves part of a terrifying experiment.

WHITE FANG

The offspring of an Indian wolf dog and a wolf grows up to be the greatest fighter and drawn to the ways of the wild. He responds to vicious behavior with violence and savagery of his own. In time and with the intervention of humans, he is given the opportunity to respond appropriately to kindness.

SASQUATCH

A teenager Dylan and an elderly scientist follow Dylan's father on a bigfoot-hunting team but find that they themselves are being followed.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JANIE

This is a sequel to *The Face on the Milk Carton*. Janie Johnson has spent most of her 15 years wishing her name were different, more interesting, and more exotic. Now that a bizarre series of events has sent her to live with her real family in New Jersey, she desperately wishes she had been satisfied with her old name.

SMALL STEPS

A sequel to *Holes*, Theodore "Armpit" Johnson is back in the real world and determined to finish school while using his shoveling skills in a good landscaping job while taking small steps toward becoming a respected member of society again.

THE GOBLIN WOOD

Goblins are evil and cannot be controlled. Everybody knows that. But good and evil are not always clearly defined, and friendship can cross all races.

BRIAN'S HUNT

One night Brian finds a dog that is wounded and whimpering. The dog is badly hurt, and as Brian cares for it, he senses danger and he worries about his Cree friends who live north of his camp. His instincts tell him to quickly head north. With his new friend at his side, and with a terrible, growing sense of uneasiness, he sets out on the hunt.

BRISNGR

This sequel to *Eragon* and *Eldest* focuses on the story of Eragon and his dragon Saphira as they continue their quest to overthrow the corrupt ruler of the Empire, Balbatorix.

FIRST LIGHT

Twelve-year-old Peter is excited when he learns that his father, a scientist who studies glaciers, is planning to take him and his headache-prone mother, as well as a graduate student named Jonas on an expedition to Greenland. Looking forward to time away from school and the change of scenery from noisy New York City, Peter begins to have mind-numbing headaches of his own and experiences visions that frighten him.

RUBY IN THE SMOKE

In search of clues to the mystery of her father's death, 16-year-old Sally Lockhart ventures into the shadowy underworld of Victorian criminals. Pursued by villains at every turn, the intrepid Sally finally uncovers dark mysteries—and realizes that she herself is the key to her father's death. The first of a trilogy.

MANIAC MAGEE

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplished athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

DICEY'S SONG

Now that the four abandoned Tillerman children are settled in with their grandmother, Dicey finds that their new beginnings require love, trust, humor, and courage.

BLOOD RED HORSE

A special horse named Hosanna 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.

THE GADGET

Set in Los Alamos, New Mexico, during World War II, 13-year-old Stephen Orr places himself in grave danger as he tries to uncover the secret of The Gadget, a project his father is developing for the U.S. government.

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

Ten people, strangers to each other, are all invited to a lavish estate on an isolated island. Through a recording, their mysterious host accuses each of his 'guests' of murder and proceeds to exact 'justice.' Tension mounts as, one-by-one, the number of people are reduced through the ingenious plotting of the unseen killer.

HOW TO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY & NEVER BE FOUND

Margaret's Dad is dead. He died by drowning. She doesn't think anything is unusual until she finds a package with a swimming medal in it—her Dad's medal. Margaret found this package on an unusual trip to put a mansion up for sale by owner, a mansion that she wasn't aware her family owned. Also in this package are a key and a hand-drawn comic book. Margaret decides to investigate the house on her own.

PEAK

After being arrested for scaling a skyscraper, Peak's mountain-climbing father takes him to climb Mount Everest. However, Peak soon discovers the truth behind why his father decided to take his son, whom he hasn't seen in years. That's when he starts to write in his Moleskin Journals and his journey really begins on Mount Everest.

NON-FICTION:

GORILLAS IN THE MIST

This biography presents the life of Dian Fossey, who devoted herself to researching and protecting gorillas in the Virunga Mountains of Africa, and the people she worked with. It puts her life in context by giving boxes throughout the text which explain what was happening in the U.S. or Africa as certain events occurred in Fossey's life.

THE CAGE

Ruth Minsky Sender's autobiographical memoir of the hardships Jews faced in the Lodz Ghetto, Auschwitz, and labor camps successfully grabs the attention of the young adolescent readers for whom it was intended. Nothing in the story is too graphic or explicit for teenagers studying the Holocaust.

DANIEL'S STORY

This story is based on the display at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Daniel is a fictional character based on the experience of many Holocaust survivors. Daniel and his family are taken to the camps and forced into slave labor. The book is especially written for middle school students and does an excellent job of weaving history into this exciting story.

A FAREWELL TO MANZANAR

Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942, when she and her family went to live at Manzanar internment camp. This is the story of a Japanese-American family's attempt to survive during their World War II detention.

BORN FREE

This book tells the story of Joy Adamson, her game warden husband, George, and Elsa, the orphaned cub lioness they raised while living in Kenya. It depicts the dilemma the Adamsons eventually faced when their time in Kenya came to an end, forcing them to decide whether to place Elsa in a zoo, which Joy vehemently opposed, or to attempt to teach the domesticated lioness to hunt and fend for herself in the wild. Today the release of animals born and/or raised in captivity back into the wild is becoming a common practice. When Joy and George Adamson did it back in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it was a pioneering effort. The success of this book helped to fund the creation of Kenya's first wildlife reserves and bring the conservation issue to the world's attention.

EXPLORERS WHO GOT LOST

During the 15th and 16th centuries just about every explorer who sailed beyond the horizon to find new land thought he knew where he was going. But, in fact, most got lost and stumbled on places no one had ever heard of. But these Age of Discovery heroes changed the map of the world. The author includes the history, sociology, and even the superstitions of the time along with drawings, maps, routes and diagrams of ships and navigational equipment.

RIMSHOTS: BASKETBALL PIX & ROLLS

In stories and poems, Smith shows the range of emotions tied to the hearts of those who love the game of basketball. It's about the author's life of basketball, which he makes into poems that deal with different basketball situations.