



## Seventh Grade Summer Work Packet 2025

You did it! Now that you have finished your first year of Middle School, you are ready to move on and become experienced seventh graders. As your Humanities teachers for seventh grade, we are looking forward to meeting you.

For your summer homework, you will read a total of THREE books and complete a total of ONE writing assignment. The overview is below, and details are on the following pages.

### CHECKLIST FOR SUMMER READING PACKET

- ☐ Read the directions in this packet carefully.
- ☐ Read *When You Reach Me*. As you read, annotate.
- ☐ Complete Creative/Personal Writing Assignment for *When You Reach Me* (choose one of two options)
- ☐ Be ready to discuss *When You Reach Me* in class on the first day.
- ☐ Read one work of fiction from the [Summer Reading 7th Grade FICTION Choices 2025 list](#)
- ☐ Read one work of nonfiction from the [Summer Reading 7th Grade NONFICTION Choices 2025 list](#)
- ☐ Be ready to discuss the fiction choice book in class on the first day.
- ☐ Bring all of the above (hard copies, including your books!) to school on the first day of classes.

*We wish you a wonderful summer filled with relaxation and adventure! We look forward to happily greeting you in September to begin a wonderful year of learning! Email us with any questions!*

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### Book 1: *When You Reach Me*, by Rebecca Stead

*When You Reach Me* is narrated by Miranda, a twelve year old girl who lives on the Upper West Side of New York City. When she begins receiving mysterious notes that predict the future, she must put together pieces of a story she does not yet understand before it's too late. The novel is written in vignettes (brief episodes or accounts); each chapter follows Miranda through her life over the course of a few months. The vignettes are mostly in chronological order, but many contain flashbacks to previous events, so it might be helpful to keep track of when things happened while you are reading.

We **strongly recommend** that you **annotate** (write notes about the book) **directly in the book while reading or on sticky notes you attach to the pages of your book**. Over the course of the year, we will be emphasizing the importance of annotating in your book, showing you how writing notes in your book while reading helps support your progress and growth as a thoughtful and critical reader. Remember that you do not need to write in full sentences for your notes--these are just ways to record your thoughts as you read.

Some tips to consider when you annotate:

- Underline unfamiliar words, terms, or memorable phrases that jump out to you ("*bookbag*, *pocketshoe*!")
- If you notice any connections between chapters, make a note ("Similar to p. 3" or "Sal said something like this at the beginning of the book")
- Write a note, reaction face, or an exclamation point next to anything unusual or surprising you notice about the events and characters ("Oh, noooooo!")
- Record your predictions, questions, and inferences (things you've figured out without it being written out explicitly) as you read ("Is the person leaving these notes from the future?")

Use these annotations to help you complete the written assignment on the next page.

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**There will be one writing assignment for this book. Be sure to proofread your work carefully and demonstrate your best writing skills--this is the first time your teacher will get to see your writing, so show us what you've got! *Please type this assignment on the computer and print out a hard copy. Make sure your name is on the assignment!***

### CREATIVE/PERSONAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Choose **ONE** of the following options. Be sure to proofread your work carefully!

- **Option One:** At the beginning of the text, the laughing man frightens Miranda because she finds him strange and unpredictable. However, Miranda later describes how she makes people she is frightened of seem less scary and says that she's "discovered that most people I'm afraid of are actually very friendly" (26). Throughout the novel, first impressions and assumptions are often revealed to be inaccurate or even harmful. Have you ever made an assumption about someone or something in your life that turned out to be inaccurate? What helped you realize otherwise? Write a substantial paragraph (more than seven sentences) describing this experience. *If you can't think of a time when you've had this experience, consider a time you've read about this happening in a story.*
- **Option Two:** The notes Miranda receives from the future are for a purpose – to correct a terrible mistake that happened in her present. Imagine that you are a time traveler and that you have a serious, urgent problem in your present life. Write a letter to your future self, giving that future self advice about what they should do to help you with the problem you are having in your present life when they travel back in time. Consider who you are in the future, what actions you would have to take to improve the situation...and what might the consequences of these actions be? In at least two solid paragraphs, create this letter using specific details and instructions for your future self in this imagined scenario. *For example, you might be a ship captain who accidentally causes a terrible 10-boat shipwreck. Give yourself specific instructions on how, once your future self has traveled to the present, you will save the people who matter most to you and fix your mistake.*

**You may include your own artwork as an illustration for your letter or paragraphs.**

**This is due on the first day of school (Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025).**

## Seventh Grade Summer Work Packet 2025

### Book 2: Fiction 7th Grade Summer Reading List

Choose one of the books off of the linked reading list. As you read, mark two or three passages that you find especially meaningful or thought-provoking. If you wish to read a different book that you have not read before, email Claire ([claire.kozak@heschel.org](mailto:claire.kozak@heschel.org)) with the title and author. You don't need to prepare any written material for this book, but be ready to discuss the following in class:

1. Know the **title**, **author**, and **genre** of the novel.
2. What is the **setting** (time and place) of the novel?
3. Who is the **protagonist** of the novel? Be ready to give a brief description of the character.
4. What is the main **plot** of the novel? Be ready to summarize it briefly--but no spoilers!

**Please bring your “Free Read” book to class on the first day of school. If you are reading a library book or an e-book, please know that you will need to have access to this book in the first days of school!**

## Seventh Grade Summer Work Packet 2025

### [Book 3: Non-Fiction 7th Grade Summer Reading List](#)

Choose one of the books off of the linked non-fiction reading list. As you read, mark two or three passages that you find especially meaningful or thought-provoking.