

7th Grade English

2026 Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations! You've worked hard to improve your reading skills throughout this year! The best way to have a strong start to 7th grade is to make sure you **KEEP READING** all summer long. **We recommend that you read at least 6 books this summer.** You do not have to turn in a log, but you can keep track if you want to!

We have marked where each book/author is available:

NYPL=NY public library e-library card instructions [here](#)

Audible=audiobook available from the East Side account

Sora= log in with your DOE account - instructions available [here](#)

→ In addition, please **read and review two books from the list below** (these can count towards your 6!):

- **Iveliz Explains It All** by Andrea Beatriz Arango (How do you speak up when it feels like no one is listening? One girl takes on seventh grade while facing mental health challenges, and must find her voice to advocate for the help and understanding she deserves.) (NYPL, Sora)
- **Stuck** by Jennifer Swender (Even though he is big for his age, Austin tries to fly under the radar. He's used to being the new kid, and always has a made-up story ready about why his family moved instead of the truth. He also struggles to read. But when he starts at his new school just before the year ends, an unexpected friendship leads him to open up and try new things.) (NYPL, Sora)
- **Moonwalking** by Zetta Elliott & Lyn Miller-Lachmann (In 1980s Brooklyn, new student JJ Pankowski, an autistic, punk-rock-lover, befriends Pie Velez, an Afro-Latinx math geek and graffiti artist.) (NYPL, Sora)
- **One for All** by Lillie Lainoff (Tania de Batz is mostly herself with a sword in her hand. Everyone in town thinks her near-constant dizziness makes her weak, nothing but "a sick girl". But Tania wants to be strong, independent, a fencer like her father—a former Musketeer and her greatest champion.) ***THIS BOOK IS A CHALLENGE** (NYPL, Sora)
- **Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25** by Richard Paul Evans (To everyone at Meridian High School, Michael Vey is an ordinary fourteen-year-old. In fact, the only thing that seems to set him apart is the fact that he has Tourette's syndrome. But Michael is anything but ordinary. Michael has special powers. Electric powers.) (NYPL, Sora)
- **No Matter the Distance** by Cindy Baldwin (The unexpected appearance of a dolphin in her backyard creek helps a sixth-grader with cystic fibrosis learn to write her own story.) (NYPL, Sora)
- **El Deafo** by Cece Bell (A fabulous graphic novel memoir of Cece's childhood dealing with being hearing impaired -- is deafness a disability or a superpower?) ***This book is a QUICKER READ** (NYPL, Sora, ESCHS)
- **Wink: Surviving Middle School with One Eye Open** by Rob Harrell (After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can help him survive both treatment and middle school.) (NYPL, Sora)
- **The Pretty One: on life, pop culture, disability, and other reasons to fall in love with me** by Keah Brown (From the disability rights advocate and creator of the #DisabledAndCute viral campaign, a

thoughtful, inspiring, and charming collection of essays exploring what it means to be black and disabled in a mostly able-bodied white America.) (NYPL, Sora)

- ***The Oracle Code*** by Marieke Nijkamp and Manuel Preitano (For DC Comics fans, this graphic novel explores what happens when teen superhero hacker Barbara Gordon aka Batgirl becomes paralyzed. Mystery, adventure, and inspiration abound!) *This book is a QUICKER READ (NYPL, Sora)
- ***Rolling Warrior : the incredible, sometimes awkward, true story of a rebel girl on wheels who helped spark a revolution*** by Judith Heumann (Judy shares her journey of battling for equal access in an unequal world—from fighting to attend grade school after being described as a “fire hazard” because of her wheelchair, to suing the New York City school system for denying her a teacher’s license. Judy went on to lead 150 disabled people in the longest sit-in protest in US history at the San Francisco Federal Building.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***Chronically Dolores*** by Maya Van Wagonen (Dolores Mendoza is not thriving. She was recently diagnosed with a chronic bladder condition called interstitial cystitis. The painful disease isn't life-threatening, but it is threatening to ruin her life. Just when things seem hopeless, Dolores meets someone poised to change her fate.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***Please Pay Attention*** by Jamie Sumner. (This novel in verse follows Bea, who has cerebral palsy, and who just survived a trauma, but who begins to find healing through a horseback riding program.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***Aniana del Mar Jumps In*** by Jasminne Mendez. (A novel in verse about a Dominican American girl who must keep her love of swimming from her mother, and whose diagnosis of Juvenile Arthritis forces her to reimagine the person she is to come.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***The Danger Box*** by Blue Balliett (Zoomy, who doesn’t quite fit in, finds a mysterious notebook, is on the run from a dangerous stranger, and makes an unlikely friend all in one extraordinary summer.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***OCDaniel*** by Wesley King (Thirteen year-old Daniel has a lot on his mind: his classes, his crush, and the upcoming football playoffs. But he has two secrets -- his mental “zaps,” and the strange girl who seems to know more about him than he does about himself.) (NYPL, Sora, Audible3)
- ***A Time to Dance*** by Padma Venkatraman (Veda loves to dance more than anything else. So how will she go on when an accident causes her to lose her legs? This novel in verse looks like a long poem and is set in India.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*** by Dusti Bowling (Aven, who was born without arms, moves across the country and becomes friends with Connor, who helps her investigate a run-down theme park.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin*** by Josh Berk (Chubby, Deaf, geeky new-kid Will has to solve a mystery involving a murder of one of his high school classmates.) (NYPL, Audible3)
- ***Roll with It*** by Jamie Sumner (Ellie’s a girl who tells it like it is. That surprises some people, who see a kid in a wheelchair and think she’s going to be all sunshine and cuddles. The thing is, Ellie has big dreams: She might be eating Stouffer’s for dinner, but one day she’s going to be a professional baker.) (NYPL, Sora)
- ***Show Me a Sign*** by Ann Clare LeZotte (It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but recent events have shattered her life.) (This is a series.) (NYPL, Sora)

- **Mooncakes** by Suzanne Walker (A story of love and demons, family and witchcraft.) *This book is a QUICKER READ (NYPL, Sora)
- **A Boy Called Bat** by Alana K. Arnold (When his veterinarian mom brings home a stray baby skunk that needs rehabilitation before it can be placed in a wild animal shelter, Bat, who has autism, resolves to prove that he is up to the challenge of caring for the skunk permanently.) (NYPL, Sora) *This book is a QUICKER READ
- **Very Bad at Math** by Hope Larson (Verity 'Very' Nelson can do it all. She's student body president, debate club whiz, and first chair clarinetist. . . You could say she's pretty much the best at everything...Well, almost everything. Everything except math. And it's not like she doesn't try. Math just doesn't make sense in her brain.) (NYPL, Sora) *This book is a QUICKER READ
- **Pinned** by Sharon Flake (Autumn lives to wrestle but can't read. Adonis is a bookworm who has no legs. Could two teens who are so different find a connection to one another? Maybe even love?) *This book is a QUICKER READ (NYPL, Sora, Audible3)
- **Marcelo in the Real World** by Francisco X. Stork (The summer Marcelo is 17, his father decides that he will learn about "the real world." Marcelo navigates being seen as something other than just autistic as he juggles a job, romance, his dreams for the future, and speaking out about what is right.) *THIS BOOK IS A CHALLENGE (NYPL, Sora, Audible3)

If you cannot get copies of these books, please email Aswenson@schools.nyc.gov, tcraig3@schools.nyc.gov, jdawidowicz@schools.nyc.gov, or tolasanoye3@schools.nyc.gov for assistance.

Over the summer, your 7th grade teachers expect you to **read and review two of the books** from the list above (feel free to read more of them if you want!) See instructions in the box below:

On loose-leaf, write two reviews: one for each of the books you read from the list above. You do not need to review any of the other books you read. For each book, answer the following three questions. Every answer should be a paragraph (5-7 sentences) long. Be sure to include the title and author of each book you review.

1. Retell the book in your own words.
2. What did you think of the book? Did you like it? Why or why not? Who was your favorite character? Why? What was the best part of the book?
3. What did this book teach you about what it means to "be normal"? What parts of the main character's identity made it difficult to fit in? What did you learn from how the character(s) dealt with those challenges? How can you apply these lessons to your life?

Please bring in your handwritten reviews to turn in on the first day of school!

Mooncakes

The Oracle Code