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Summer Reading 2025

Summer Reading List For Students Entering Grade 7

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer reading should be fun! The seventh grade teachers have designed this packet to encourage students to read all summer long. They are asking students to read one assigned book. In this packet you will also find a list of book suggestions. The books on this list are not required, but are there for students who love to read. The books may be read as part of the Amesbury Public Library's Summer Reading programs that will run from June through August. Included in this packet you will find Summer Reading Tips for Parents, the summer reading assignment, and a suggested reading list.

Extra copies of this list may be obtained at the Amesbury Public Library, the AMS office and the Superintendent's office. The list and assessment may also be found on the Amesbury Middle School's web site under the following Quick Links: Parent Letters & Information. The titles on this list may be borrowed from the Amesbury Public Library.

Please help us with our campaign to encourage our middle school students to keep reading all summer long!

Sincerely,

Doug Nebel
Principal

Summer Reading Tips for Parents



- Read to your child. Try to establish a daily routine that includes a time to read together. Bedtime is a traditional favorite, but any time will work that is convenient for you and your family.
- Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading for pleasure as well as for information. Let her know that you value reading.
- Give your child the opportunity to read aloud to you, a friend, another family member or another child. Make the experience a chance for your child to share his new reading skills. Have him read the book silently before asking him to read it aloud. Correct mistakes only when the mistake changes the meaning of the sentence and then supply the word without making him feel bad for having made a mistake.
- Include your child in your day-to-day reading experiences. Share recipes, the newspaper, magazines, the TV Guide, cereal boxes, menus, road signs, etc. Our world is full of things to read if we are aware of our surroundings.
- Talk to your child about the books she is reading. Tell her about books you enjoyed when you were a child and ones that you are reading now.
- Help him select books on topics he is interested in and on his reading level. A simple rule of thumb for helping your child select books at his reading level is to have them choose a page in the book (not the first one) and read it. If he doesn't know five or more of the words, then the book is too hard for pleasure reading.
- If you are planning a vacation this summer, write to the visitors' bureau of places you will be visiting and ask for information on the area and any special attractions, check out books from the library to get background information, or get brochures from your travel agent, share this information with your child; ask for his input on what activities he would enjoy. Hang a map of the places you will be visiting and/or traveling through on the wall and chart your travel route. These techniques will work after travel too.
- Carry a bag with books and activities to keep your child occupied whenever you have to wait.
- Get your child his own library card. Take or allow him to go to the library often, browse for books and enjoy special activities.
- Help her learn new words. Make a goal of one new word a day. Discuss words she comes across and doesn't know. This will help her to explain her vocabulary.

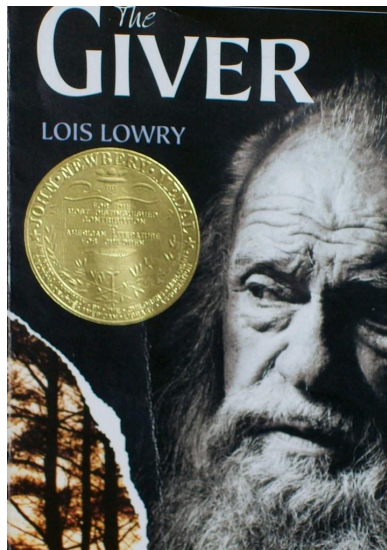
Use our electronic reading database, **Sora** and have thousands of books at your fingertips. Sora is an app that our school pays for, and students may log in to their school Google accounts. No passwords necessary. A link to Sora can be found on the library site, but it's easier to download the app. It's an excellent resource for students with kindles or other devices.

INCOMING SEVENTH GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

As a way to connect, before the school year begins, the seventh grade team has opted for students to read a required text, **The Giver by Lois Lowry**. By reading the same book, students will have a shared experience that can jumpstart our year by providing an opportunity to focus on a specific theme or activity. You are also responsible for filling out a note taking sheet, which is due on the first day of school. We have also provided you with a list of book suggestions. The books on this list are **not required**, but are merely suggestions for those of you who enjoy reading.

TO SUM IT UP:

- READ THE GIVER BY LOIS LOWRY
- COMPLETE THE NOTE TAKING SHEET
- BRING IT TO SCHOOL ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
 - NOTE: In September, you will be completing an in-class project based on The Giver. Therefore, make sure your notes are sufficiently detailed so you can complete the assignment. We also look forward to having a class discussion with you about The Giver after summer vacation. See you in September!
- THE LIST OF BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS IS OPTIONAL. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ BOOKS FROM THIS LIST.



Incoming Seventh Graders: Summer Reading Recommendations

Alexander, Kwame (Realistic)

Crossover

Barnes, Lynn Jennifer (Realistic/Mystery)

The Inheritance Games

Braden, Ann (Realistic)

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

Craft, Jerry (Graphic)

The New Kid

Fipps, Lisa (Realistic)

Starfish

Freeman, Megan (Realistic)

Alone

Gratz, Alan (Historical)

Ground Zero

Haddox, Margaret Petersen (Fantasy/Adventure)

Among the Hidden (Shadow Children series)

Hahn, Mary Downing (Mystery)

Wait Till Helen Comes

Howe, James (Realistic)

Misfits

Jamieson, Victoria (Graphic/Memoir)

When Stars are Scattered

King, Amy Sarig (Realistic)

Attack of the Black Rectangles

Kinsella, Sophie (Realistic)

Finding Aubrey

Lockhart, E. (Realistic)

We were Liars

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Shiloh (Realistic)

Nielsen, Jennifer

A Night Divided

Paulsen, Gary (Fiction)

Hatchet

Potter, Ellen (Realistic)

Slob

Schmidt, Gary

The Wednesday Wars

Silvera, Adam (Dystopian)

They Both Die in the End

Smith, Roland (Adventure)

Peak

Spinelli, Jerry (YA Fiction)

Dead Wednesday

Stevens, Robin (YA Fiction)

Murder is Bad Manners

Telegmeier, Rene (Graphic)

Ghosts

Westerfield, Scott (Dystopian)

The Uglies

GRADE SEVEN BOOK SUGGESTIONS/SUMMARIES

Crossover~Alexander, Kwame

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family." ~Publisher's Summary

The Inheritance Games~Barnes, Jennifer Lynn

"Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: Survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why - or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch - and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: Dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day, they would inherit billions. Their apparent Grayson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery must be a con-woman, and he's determined to take her down. His brother, Jameson, views her as their grandfather's last hurrah: A twisted riddle, a puzzle to be solved. Caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every turn, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive." ~Publisher's Summary

The Benefits of Being an Octopus ~Braden, Ann

"Some people can do their homework. Some people get to have crushes on boys. Some people have other things they've got to do. Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer. At school, Zoey tries to stay under the radar. Her only friend Fuchsia has her own issues, and since they're in an entirely different world than the rich kids, it's best if no one notices them. Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady, unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses. Unfortunately, she's not totally invisible, and one of her teachers forces her to join the debate club. Even though Zoey resists participating, debate ultimately leads her to see things in a new way: her mom's relationship with Lenny, Fuchsia's situation, and her own place in this town of people who think they're better than her. Can Zoey find the courage to speak up, even if it means risking the most stable home she's ever had?" ~Publisher's Summary

The New Kid ~Craft, Jerry (Graphic Novel)

"Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?" This middle grade graphic novel is an excellent choice for tween readers, including for summer reading. ~Publisher's Summary

Starfish ~Fipps, Lisa

Written in free verse, Starfish follows Ellie, a Texas girl who has been bullied relentlessly for her weight, even by her own mother. With the help of a therapist, a new friend, and her loving father, Ellie learns to stand up for herself and be unapologetically her. Starfish is a much-needed story for young people about the power of kindness and self-love~Publisher's Summary

Alone ~Freeman, Megan

"When 12-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone - left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. After a rough start, Maddie learns to trust her own ingenuity and invents clever ways to survive in a place that has been deserted and forgotten. As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie's most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?" ~Publisher's Summary

Ground Zero ~Gratz, Alan*“September*

11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive - and escape? September 11, 2020, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz - and put herself and her family in mortal danger? Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same.” ~Publisher’s Summary

Shadow Children (Among the Hidden Book 1) ~HaddixMargaret Petersen

“Luke Garner has spent his entire life - all 12 years - in hiding. The government has outlawed families with more than two children. As the Garners' third child, Luke's very life is in danger. When Luke meets Jen, another "shadow child," he begins to question the government's policies”. ~Publisher’s Summary

Wait Till Helen Comes ~Hahn, Mary Downing

“Since its publication in 1986, the deliciously frightening novel Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story has not only haunted countless readers, but has also won eleven state book awards. The spine-chilling tale begins when twelve-year-old Molly and her ten-year-old brother, Michael, learn that they'll be moving to a refurbished old church in rural Maryland with their mother's new husband, Dave, and their younger stepsister, Heather. Heather is an insufferable brat, but that turns out to be the least of the family's worries. When she strikes up a friendship with Helen, the malevolent ghost of a seven-year-old girl who died in a mysterious fire more than a hundred years ago, things really heat up . . . and Heather's unsettling threat, “Wait till Helen comes,” becomes a grim reality.” ~Publisher’s Summary

The Misfits ~Howe, James

“Kids who get called the worst names often times find each other. That's how it was with us, Skeeze Tookis, Addie Carle, Joe Bunch, and me. Bobby is the quiet one, the chubby one, the kid who just wants to get through seventh grade unseen and unscathed. He hates the names he's called, but he figures there's nothing he can do about it—until Addie comes up with a plan. Will her campaign to end name-calling at Paintbrush Falls Middle School change anything? One thing is for sure: it will change Bobby forever.” ~Publisher’s Summary

When Stars are Scattered ~Jamieson, Victoria (Graphic Novel/Memoir)

“Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day. It's an intimate, important, unforgettable look at the day-to-day life of a refugee, as told to New York Times Bestselling author/artist Victoria Jamieson by Omar Mohamed, the Somali man who lived the story.” ~Publisher’s Summary

Attack of the Black Rectangles ~ Sarig King, Amy

Award-winning author Amy Sarig King takes on censorship and intolerance in a novel she was born to write. When Mac first opens his classroom copy of Jane Yolen's The Devil's Arithmetic and finds some words blacked out, he thinks it must be a mistake. But then when he and his friends discover what the missing words are, he's outraged. Someone in his school is trying to prevent kids from reading the full story.

Finding Aubrey ~Kinsella, Sophie

“ An anxiety disorder disrupts 14-year-old Audrey's daily life. She has been making slow but steady progress with Dr. Sarah, but when Audrey meets Linus, her brother's gaming teammate, she is energized. She connects with him. Audrey can talk through her fears with Linus in a way she's never been able to do with anyone before. As their friendship deepens and her recovery gains momentum, a sweet romantic connection develops, one that helps not just Audrey but also her entire family.” ~Publisher’s Summary

We Were Liars ~Lockhart, E

“#1 New York Times Best Seller. A modern, sophisticated suspense novel from National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honoree E. Lockhart. Don't miss the #1 New York Times bestselling prequel, Family of Liars. A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth. Explore it.

Shiloh~ Naylor, Phyllis, Reynolds

"There's nothing eleven-year-old Marty Preston enjoys more than spending time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. But this time is different. This time Marty sees a young beagle on the road past the old Shiloh school-house. Marty feels sure the dog is being abused by his owner. When the dog runs away to Marty's house, his parents say he must bring him back. But it hurts Marty to return the runaway dog to his cruel master. That's when Marty secretly decides he'll do anything to save the dog he names Shiloh. And if anyone asks you how it ends, just Lie." ~Publisher's Summary

The Night Divided ~ Jennifer Nielsen

"A Night Divided joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! With the rise of the Berlin Wall, Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city. But one day on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Gerta concludes that her father wants her and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?" ~Publisher's Summary

Hatchet ~Paulsen, Gary

"On his way to visit his recently divorced father in the Canadian mountains, thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is the only survivor when the single-engine plane crashes. His body battered, his clothes in shreds, Brian must now stay alive in the boundless Canadian wilderness. More than a survival story, Hatchet is a tale of tough decisions. When all is stripped down to the barest essentials, Brian discovers some stark and simple truths. Self-pity doesn't work. Despair doesn't work. And if Brian is to survive physically as well as mentally, he must discover courage." ~Publisher's Summary

Slob ~ Potter, Ellen (Realistic)

"Twelve-year-old Owen Birnbaum is the fattest kid in school. But he also invents cool contraptions--like a TV that can show the past--because there is something that happened two years ago which he needs to see if he ever hopes to unravel a dreadful mystery. But inventor or not, there is a lot Owen can't figure out. Like how his Oreos keep disappearing from his lunch. Or why his sister suddenly wants to be called by a boy's name. Or why a diabolical, scar-faced bully at school seems to be on a mission to destroy him. He's sure that if only he can get the TV to work, things will start to make sense. But it will take a revelation, not a cool invention, for Owen to see that the answer is not in the past, but the present. That no matter how large he is on the outside, he doesn't have to feel small on the inside." ~Publisher's Summary

The Wednesday Wars ~Schmidt, Gary (Realistic)

"The Wednesday Wars is a wonderfully witty and compelling story about a teenage boy's mishaps and adventures over the course of the 1967-68 school year in Long Island, New York. Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling - he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: The success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much with which to contend? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights!" ~Publisher's Summary

They Both Die at the End ~Silvera, Adam (Dystopian)

"On September 5, a little after midnight, Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: They're going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: There's an app for that. It's called the Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure—to live a lifetime in a single day." ~Publisher's Summary

Peak ~Smith, Roland (Realistic/Suspense)

"The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below." (Peak Marcello) After 14-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in juvenile detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit - and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life. Roland Smith has created an action-packed adventure about friendship, sacrifice, family, and the drive to take on Everest, despite the incredible risk. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent - told in his own words - is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down." ~Publisher's Summary

Dead Wednesday ~Spinelli, Jerry (YA Fiction)

“On Dead Wednesday, every eighth grader in Amber Springs is assigned the name and identity of a teenager who died a preventable death in the past year. The kids don black shirts and for the whole day everyone in town pretends they're invisible—as if they weren't even there. The adults think it will make them contemplate their mortality. The kids know it's a free pass to get away with anything. Worm Tarnauer feels invisible every day. He's perfectly happy being the unnoticed sidekick of his friend Eddie. So he's not expecting Dead Wednesday to feel that different. But he didn't count on being assigned Becca Finch (17, car crash). And he certainly didn't count on Becca showing up to boss him around! Letting this girl into his head is about to change everything. This is the story of the unexpected, heartbreaking, hilarious, truly epic day when Worm Tarnauer discovers his own life.” ~Publisher's Summary

Murder is Bad Manners ~Stevens, Robin (Realistic/Mystery)

“Two friends form a detective agency—and must solve their first murder case—in this “sharp-witted debut” (Publishers Weekly, starred review) that is the first adventure in a brand-new middle grade mystery series set at a 1930s boarding school. Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are best friends at Deepdean School for Girls, and they both have a penchant for solving mysteries. In fact, outspoken Daisy is a self-described Sherlock Holmes, and she appoints wallflower Hazel as her own personal Watson when they form their own (secret!) detective agency. The only problem? They have nothing to investigate. But that changes once Hazel discovers the body of their science teacher, Miss Bell—and the body subsequently disappears. She and Daisy are certain a murder must have taken place, and they can think of more than one person with a motive.” ~Publisher's Summary

Ghosts ~Telgemeier, Rene (Graphic)

“Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. Cat isn't happy about leaving her friends for Bahía de la Luna, but Maya has cystic fibrosis and will benefit from the cool, salty air that blows in from the sea. As the girls explore their new home, a neighbor lets them in on a secret: There are ghosts in Bahía de la Luna. Maya is determined to meet one, but Cat wants nothing to do with them. As the time of year when ghosts reunite with their loved ones approaches, Cat must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister's sake - and her own.” ~

Uglies~Scott Westerfield (Dystopian)

“Tally lives in a world where your 16th birthday brings aesthetic perfection: an operation that erases all your flaws, transforming you from an "Ugly" into a "Pretty". She is on the eve of this important event and cannot wait for her life to change. As well as guaranteeing supermodel looks, life as a Pretty seems to revolve around having a good time. But then she meets Shay, who is also 15 - but with a very different outlook on life. Shay isn't sure she wants to be Pretty and plans to escape to a community in the forest - the Rusty Ruins - where Uglies go to escape "turning". Tally won't be persuaded to join her, as this would involve sacrificing everything she's ever wanted for a lot of uncertainty. When she is taken in for questioning on her birthday, however, Tally gets sent to the Ruins anyway - against her will. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she could ever imagine: Find her friend, Shay, and turn her in or never turn Pretty at all. What she discovers in the Ruins reveals that there is nothing "pretty" about the transformations...and the choice Tally makes will change her world forever.” Publisher's Summary

Name _____ Date _____

Notes on *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Setting: Where and when did the story take place?

Which character in the book made the biggest impression on you? Share an example from the book that conveys the true nature of this character. Be specific.

What message was the author, Lois Lowry, sending to the readers? What was her purpose in writing this book?

What is the conflict or big problem in the story?

What would you like to change in the story?

Find a quote in the book and tell us why you chose it and why it is significant?

What is your opinion of the book? Would you recommend it to friends?

Optional: Draw a picture of a scene from the book

