

7th Grade Summer Reading (2025)



***Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed**

Amal is excited about continuing her education and becoming a teacher herself. Will family responsibilities end her dream? Or will her hope and hard work win out?

***Daybreak on Raven Island* by Bradley Fleur**

Tori, Marvin, and Noah would rather be anywhere else than on the seventh grade class field trip to Raven Island prison. Tori would rather be on the soccer field, but her bad grades have benched her until further notice; Marvin would rather be at the first day of a film festival with his best friend, Kevin; and Noah isn't looking forward to having to make small talk with his classmates at this new school. But when the three of them stumble upon a dead body in the woods, miss the last ferry back home, and then have to spend the night on Raven Island, they find that they need each other now more than ever. They must work together to uncover a killer, outrun a motley ghost-hunting crew, and expose the age-old secrets of the island all before daybreak.

***Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone**

Shenice Lockwood is captain of the Fulton Firebirds. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U12 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way. Strike one: As the sole team of all-brown faces, Shenice and the Firebirds have to work twice as hard to prove that Black girls belong at bat. Strike two: Shenice's focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a family-name-ruining--crime. Strike three: Broken focus means mistakes on the field. And Shenice's teammates are beginning to wonder if she's captain-qualified. It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past--and fast--before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

***Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle**

Free Lunch is the story of Rex Ogle's first semester in sixth grade. Rex and his baby brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies, and Rex was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and the humiliation of having to announce it every day in the school lunch line, Rex's is a compelling story of a more profound hunger—that of a child for his parents' love and care.

***Kareem Between* by Shifa Saltagi Safadi**

Syrian American Kareem sees the world through the lens of football, and he's fumbling hard when he doesn't make the middle-school football team. He ends up agreeing to do the homework of the quarterback in hopes of making the spring squad, which puts his honesty and friendship with a new kid in school in trouble. When his mother travels back to Syria to bring Kareem's grandfather to the U.S., she gets caught up in the 2017 Muslim Ban. As Kareem's life plunges into chaos, he struggles—both on and off the field—to know who he is as a student, a friend, and a son.

***The Last Bee Keeper* by Pablo Cartaya**

In a future shaken by climate disasters, Yolanda knows that nature is something to be feared. While life in the Valley is brutal and harsh, Yoly dreams of leaving her farm to live in Silo--the most advanced town for miles around. But first, Yoly will need to prove she belongs in a place where only the smartest and most useful are welcomed. Between her razor-sharp smarts and sheer determination, Yoly is well on her way until she discovers her family can no longer afford her schooling. When forced to take matters into her own hands, the closer she gets to securing her future, the more she uncovers the dangers lying inside Silo's walls--ones that threaten the entire Valley.

***The Last Fallen Star* by Graci Kim**

Riley Oh can't wait to see her sister get into the Gom clan, a powerful lineage of Korean healing witches their family has belonged to for generations. But Riley is a saram--a person without magic. Riley was adopted, and despite having memorized every healing spell she's ever heard, she often feels like the odd one out in her magical family. Riley's sister Hattie gets an idea: what if the two of them could cast a spell that would allow Riley to share Hattie's magic? Their sleuthing reveals an incantation, and the sisters decide to perform it at Hattie's initiation ceremony. If it works, no one will ever treat Riley as an outsider again. When the sisters attempt to spell Hattie's life ends up hanging in the balance, and to save her Riley has to fulfill an impossible task: find the last fallen star. But what is the star, and how can she find it?

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***Little Monarchs* by Johnathon Case**

In the twenty-second century, a sun shift has made it impossible for mammals to survive in the daylight, and Elvie and her caretaker, Flora, are studying the migration route of monarch butterflies along what used to be the western coast of the United States, hoping that something in the butterflies wing scales can be used to protect people from the sun and save humanity from extinction.

***My Nest of Silence* by Matt Faulkner**

Manzanar is nothing like home. Yet the relocation center is where Mari and her family have to live, now that the government has decided that Japanese Americans aren't American enough. Determined to prove them wrong, Mari's brother Mak has joined the army and is heading off to war. In protest, Mari has stopped talking for the duration of the war. Or at least until Mak comes home safe. Still, Mari has no trouble expressing herself through her drawings. Mak, too, expresses himself in his letters home, first from training camp and later from the front lines of World War II, where he is fighting with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. But while his letters are reassuring, reality is not: Mak is facing danger at every turn, from racism within the army to violence on the battlefield.

***Piecing me Together* by Renee Watson**

Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

***Restart* by Gordon Korman**

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?



***Scar Island* by Dan Gemeinhart**

Jonathan Grisby is the newest arrival at the Slab Henge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys--an ancient, crumbling fortress of gray stone rising up from the ocean. It is dark, damp, and dismal. And it is just the place Jonathan figures he deserves. Because Jonathan has done something terrible. And he's willing to accept whatever punishment he has coming. Just as he's getting used to his new situation, however, a freak accident leaves the troubled boys of Slabhenge without any adult supervision. Suddenly the kids are free, with an entire island to themselves. But freedom brings unexpected danger. If Jonathan can't come to terms with the sins of his past and lead his new friends to safety then every boy on the island is doomed.

***Starfish* by Lisa Fipps**

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules--like "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." Ellie's safe space is her swimming pool, where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch out like a starfish. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life- by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.

***Tagging Freedom* by Rhonda Roumani**

Kareem lives in Syria, and Samira (Sam) lives in the US. They are cousins with more in common than they realize. Kareem and his closest friends have been spray-painting graffiti speaking out against how the corrupt Syrian government is treating its people. They know they must graffiti quickly and quietly to avoid being caught and becoming one of the "disappeared" or worse, killed. In an effort to protect their son, Kareem's parents send him to live with his aunt and uncle in the US. Sam is anxious to join Spirit Squad, but struggles because the leader is a bully and her best friend Ellie refuses to join her. Despite this, Sam is determined to incite school spirit through her artistic talents in writing and drawing. Disappointed that her best friend Sam has joined the Spirit Squad, Ellie becomes close to Kareem when the two embark on their own form of raising awareness through tagging with graffiti.

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Two Degrees by Alan Gratz

When three children endure separate climate change disasters--a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida--they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.

Victory Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice by Tommie Smith

A groundbreaking and timely graphic memoir from one of the most iconic figures in American sports--and a tribute to his fight for civil rights. On October 16, 1968, during the medal ceremony at the Mexico City Olympics, Tommie Smith, the gold medal winner in the 200-meter sprint, and John Carlos, the bronze medal winner, stood on the podium in black socks and raised their black-gloved fists to protest racial injustice inflicted upon African Americans. Both men were forced to leave the Olympics, received death threats, and faced ostracism and continuing economic hardships. In his first-ever memoir for young readers, Tommie Smith looks back on his childhood growing up in rural Texas through to his stellar athletic career, culminating in his historic victory and Olympic podium protest.

