

Seventh Grade ELA Summer Reading 2019

DIRECTIONS: For Grade 7, you will need to read **TWO** books.

- Please select and read **ONE BOOK** from the **list below**.
 - These texts were selected based on their literary merit, connections to the themes discussed in Grade 7, and their high-interest content.
 - You will use your selection from this list to complete a writing benchmark assignment during the first two weeks of the school year.
- Please select and read **ONE BOOK of your choice**.
 - Must be at least 175 pages long
 - No graphic novels

It is recommended but not required that you take notes while you read using the questions on your bookmark as a guide in order to help you recall important details of the texts.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (Fiction) (Newbery Medal Winner) Josh 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. But both brothers must come to grips with growing up, on and off the court, as they realize breaking the rules can come at a terrible price, resulting in a game-changer for their entire family.

Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America by Karen Blumenthal (Nonfiction) (Jane Addams Book Award) A look at the history of Title IX, which gave girls and women equal access to physical education and athletic scholarships at schools and universities.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Fiction) (Newbery Honor Book) An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute; she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of John Wilkes Booth and Edwin Booth by James Giblin Cross (Nonfiction) (Boston Globe Horn Book Awards) Edwin Booth was an actor on the verge of national fame when his brother, John Wilkes, shot and killed Abraham Lincoln

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings (Fiction) Brady loves his life on the Chesapeake Bay, crabbing and oyster fishing with friends J.T. and Digger. But developers and rich summer families are moving into the area, and while Brady befriends some of them, others are bitter about the new construction. Tragedy strikes when a kayak sinks in the bay, and Brady discovers what happened was something other than an accident. A story of loyalty, choices, and courage.

***The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students* by Suzanne Jurmain (Nonfiction)** (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards) In 1831, in the face of much violent opposition, Prudence Crandall allowed an African-American teenager to enroll in her CT school for white children.

***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller (Nonfiction)** At the age of nineteen months, Helen Keller became deaf and blind after a serious illness. With the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, Helen overcame adversities to learn to read, write, speak, and enjoy the world around her. Helen Keller's triumph over her blindness and deafness has become one of the most inspiring and well-known stories of our time, as well as the subject of movies and plays such as *The Miracle Worker*. Here is her famous autobiography, a book that captures her early years and her struggle to communicate and become educated. Includes selected letters. Originally published in 1902 — when she was a young woman — this is Helen Keller's own story — poignant, dramatic, inspiring and memorable.

***Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai (Fiction)** (National Book Award, Newbery Honor Book) Based on the author's own childhood and written in free-verse poems, this unforgettable story captures a fierce girl's struggles to find her place in her family, in her new home, and in the world.

***A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin (Fiction)** (Boston Globe-Horn Book Award) Ged was the greatest sorcerer in all Earthsea, but once he was called Sparrowhawk, a reckless youth, hungry for power and knowledge, who tampered with long-held secrets and loosed a terrible shadow upon the world. This is the tale of his testing, how he mastered the mighty words of power, tamed an ancient dragon, and crossed death's threshold to restore the balance.

***QB1* by Mike Lupica (Fiction)** From the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Travel Team* and *Heat* comes a cheer-worthy, family friendly novel inspired by the real-life Manning family of quarterbacks, set amid the "Friday Night Lights" world of Texas high school football.

***Guts* by Gary Paulsen (Nonfiction)** Gary tells the real stories behind the Brian books, the stories of the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in *Hatchet*; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own.

***Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell (Fiction)** Black Beauty's story, as told by himself, is the fascinating tale of the life of a horse a hundred years ago, when horses were a part of daily life. Although his colthood and early life are happy, Black Beauty tastes the bitterness of cruel handlers and indifferent masters as he passes from hand to hand, progressing from the country to London and back again.

***Knots in my Yo-Yo String* by Jerry Spinelli (Nonfiction)** Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli has penned his early autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his best-selling fiction.

***Secrets of the Civil War Submarine* by Sally Walker (Nonfiction)** (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards) The story of the HL Hunley, a Confederate submarine lost during the Civil War and found/examined in 1995.

Summaries taken from Scholastic Book Wizard (scholastic.com/teachers)

Guided Reading Bookmark

Directions: Students received a copy of this bookmark in June. Use the questions on the bookmark as a guide for your handwritten notes.

While I Read, I'm Thinking About...

Story Structure

- Where does this story take place?
- Is this story fact or fiction?
- Who are the characters? How are they important to the story?
- What's happening in the beginning/middle/end of the story?
- What do I think is going to happen next?
- What's the problem and what are the characters doing to try to solve it?

Understanding What I'm Reading

- Does this make sense?
- Do I need to go back and reread?
- What do I already know that can help me understand this better?
- If I don't know a word can I read on to figure it out? Is the word like a one that I already know?
- Am I asking question while I read and looking for the answers?

Figuring Things Out on My Own

- Is the author trying to persuade, inform or entertain me?
- Why are the characters acting/talking that way?
- Can I visualize what's going on?
- How do stories like this usually end?
- What are the most important parts?
- What does the author want me to know?

Retelling the Story

- What's the gist/main idea of this story?
- Can I retell the important parts of this story to someone so it makes sense?
- What do I want to remember about what I just read?
- Can I write a summary of this story in ten or fewer sentences?