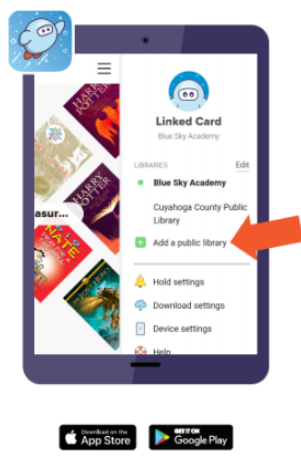


QMS SUMMER READING 2023 - GRADE 7

As we enter the summer months, one of the best ways for students to remain engaged and to increase academic success in the fall is to participate in summer reading. This year we are asking that students read at least two books for summer reading. Students are not expected to complete an assignment during summer vacation, but they are encouraged to take notes on a book so that they can share the book with their peers when we return to school.

While most books are available through online bookstores like Amazon and Barnes and Noble, we are working hard to find ways to keep QMS students reading, regardless of financial constraints. We have collaborated with the Mansfield Public Library to ensure that as many summer reading options as possible are available as eBooks. Even if students don't have a library card, they can access eBooks through the Sora App by logging in with their Mansfield Public Schools Google credentials. See the instructions below to begin accessing through Sora.



Here's how to access titles from the library through Sora:

- 1 Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com.
- 2 In Sora, enter your setup code: mansfieldma
- 3 Under your Profile, select **Add a public library** and enter **Mansfield Public Library**
- 4 When you are ready to borrow a title, sign in with School Google Credentials

Sora

Brought to you by
Mansfield Town schools
and built with ❤️ by OverDrive.

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Below you will find some recommended titles for incoming seventh graders. Feel free to choose books from this list or simply use it as a springboard to find other intriguing books. Summaries taken from Scholastic Book Wizard or Amazon.com.

- ❑ ***The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel* by Garth Stein** The New York Times bestselling novel from Garth Stein—a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope—a captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it.
- ❑ ***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.

[Click here for a link to a free version of this title at Project Gutenberg](#)

- ❑ ***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.

- ❑ ***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram** Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He’s a Fractional Persian—half, his mom’s side—and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life. Darius has never really fit in at home, and he’s sure things are going to be the same in Iran. His clinical depression doesn’t exactly help matters, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, the boy next door, and everything changes. Soon, they’re spending their days together, playing soccer, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop overlooking the city’s skyline. Sohrab calls him Darioush—the original Persian version of his name—and Darius has never felt more like himself than he does now that he’s Darioush to Sohrab. (Amazon.com Summary)

- ❑ ***Divergent* by Veronica Roth** This is the first book in Veronica Roth's #1 *New York Times* bestselling Divergent series. This dystopian series set in a futuristic Chicago has captured the hearts of millions of teen and adult readers.

- ❑ ***Dragon Hoops* by Gene Luen Yang** Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero *always* wins. But Gene doesn’t get sports. As a kid, his friends called him “Stick” and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men’s varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that’s been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he’s seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn’t know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons’ lives, but his own life as well.

- ❑ ***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick** Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).

- ❑ ***Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisceros** Efrén Nava’s Amá is his Superwoman—or Soperwoman, named after the delicious Mexican sopes his mother often prepares. Both Amá and Apá work hard all day to provide for the family, making sure Efrén and his younger siblings Max and Mía feel safe and loved. But Efrén worries about his parents; although he’s American-born, his parents are undocumented. His worst nightmare comes true one day when Amá doesn’t return from work and is deported across the border to Tijuana, México. Now more than ever, Efrén must channel his inner Soperboy to help take care of and try to reunite his family.

- ❑ ***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.

- ❑ ***Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle** *Free Lunch* is the story of Rex’s efforts to navigate his first semester of sixth grade—who to sit with, not being able to join the football team, Halloween in a handmade costume, classmates and a teacher who take one look at him and decide he’s trouble—all while wearing secondhand clothes and being hungry. His mom and her boyfriend are out of work, and life at home is punctuated by outbursts of violence. Halfway through the semester, his family is evicted and ends up in government-subsidized housing in view of the school. Rex lingers at the end of last period every day until the buses have left, so no one will see where he lives. Unsparring and realistic, *Free Lunch* is a story of hardship threaded with hope and moments of grace.

- ❑ ***Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes** Only the living can make the world better. Live and make it better. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that’s been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***Gracefully Grayson* by Amy Polonsky** What if who you are on the outside doesn't match who you are on the inside? Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but sharing it would mean facing ridicule, scorn, rejection, or worse. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free. Will new strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher's wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit? (Amazon.com Summary)
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling** A bestselling middle grade novel about a spunky girl born without arms and a boy with Tourette syndrome navigating the challenges of middle school, disability, and friendship—all while solving a mystery in a western theme park.
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart** For readers who enjoyed *Wonder* and *Counting by 7's*, award-winning author Donna Gephart crafts a compelling dual narrative about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder. Their powerful story will shred your heart, then stitch it back together with kindness, humor, bravery, and love.
- ❑ ***Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood** In the tradition of *The War That Saved My Life* and *Stella By Starlight*, this poignant novel in verse based on true events tells the story of a boy's harrowing experience on a lifeboat after surviving a torpedo attack during World War II.
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys** Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, war. As thousands desperately flock to the coast in the

midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge, vying for passage aboard the Wilhelm Gustloff, a ship that promises safety and freedom. But not all promises can be kept . . .

- ❑ ***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.

[Click here for a link to a free version of this title at Project Gutenberg](#)

- ❑ ***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor** Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground haven for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin and, eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?
- ❑ ***Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor** This poignant and joyful novel is filled with meaningful moments and emotional resonance. Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mother has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, her way or no way. Addie's mother is bipolar, and she often neglects Addie. All-or-nothing never adds up to normal, and it can't bring Addie home, where she wants to be with her half-sisters and her stepfather. But Addie never stops hoping that one day, maybe, she'll find normal.
- ❑ ***They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera** 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. (Amazon.com Summary)
- ❑ ***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?
- ❑ ***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.
- ❑ ***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk** Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and though her bullying seems isolated at first, it quickly escalates. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, soon becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. And as tensions mount in their small community, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice.

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?