

7th Grade Summer Reading List

Summer 2010

Students are asked to read **three** books of their choosing from the reading list and be prepared to take an AR reading test the first or second week of school. Students should also have read **one** book of their own choosing which is not included on the list. **A book report/review of the book of their choice will be expected during the first week of school.**

The report/review must be in MLA format (12pt. Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, MLA heading) and at least two pages in length. It must include a summary of the plot, descriptions of the main characters and your personal response to the book – what you thought about it and connections to other literature, film and life experiences.

Collier, James: My Brother Sam is Dead AR 4.9 (Point Value 7)

Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

Cooney, Caroline: Code Orange AR 6.2

While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and fears that he has infected himself and all of New York City.

Christie, Agatha: Murder on the Orient Express AR 6.2

Detective Hercule Poirot has a wealth of suspects to choose from when a wealthy American is stabbed to death en route to Paris on the Orient Express.

Sensei, Joni: Farwalkers Quest AR 5.2

Ariel and her best friend, Zeke, are ready for Namingfest, a day when they choose one of the twelve trades and are tested to become an apprentice. Though Ariel will test to be a Healtouch like her mother, she worries it isn't her true calling. Then she and Zeke find a telling dart, a mysterious remnant from the past. Its message appears lost, but Ariel knows the dart itself tells a story somehow meant for her. When two Finders come to their fishing village looking for the dart, Ariel reluctantly hands it over, but in the process marks herself as a potential Farwalker, a long-lost trade. The strangers kidnap Ariel, and, with Zeke following, her quest to find the source of the dart and her true purpose has begun. This stand-alone fantasy has a unique setting with an intriguing history and a suspenseful plot. Ariel, as headstrong as she is thoughtful, is an appealing character, and her strong bond with her companions—Zeke and Scarl, her taciturn but caring protector—makes their journey one to follow.

Thomson, Sarah L. Three Cups of Tea AR 6.1

In 1993, while climbing one of the world's most difficult peaks, Mortenson became lost and ill, and eventually found aid in the tiny Pakistani village of Korphe. He vowed to repay his generous hosts by building a school; his efforts have grown into the Central Asia Institute, which has since provided education for 25,000 children. Retold for middle readers, the story remains inspirational and compelling. Solid pacing and the authors' skill at giving very personal identities to people of a different country, religion and culture help Mortenson deliver his

message without sounding preachy; he encourages readers to put aside prejudice and politics, and to remember that the majority of people are good. An interview with Mortenson's 12-year-old daughter, who has traveled with her father to Pakistan, offers another accessible window onto this far-away and underlines Mortenson's sacrifice and courage.

Cooper, Susan: Greenwitch

Jane's invitation to witness the making of the Greenwitch begins a series of sinister events in which she and her two brothers help the Old Ones recover the grail stolen by the Dark.

Smith, Betty: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn AR 5.8

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century.

Walman, Neil: Voyages: reminiscences of Young Abe Lincoln AR 6.3

As a young man, Abraham Lincoln took several trips in a flatboat along three U.S. rivers: the Ohio, the Sangamon, and the great Mississippi. Those trips proved instrumental not only in the development of Lincoln's skills as a navigator and laborer, but also in his own education about the treatment of African people in the U.S. slave market. He became keenly aware of his hatred of slavery during these voyages, the shame he felt as a young man incapable of ending the abuses he witnessed, and his conviction to work in the longer term toward a democracy absent of slavery. Neil Waldman's carefully-researched book, with stunning illustrations that convey the feeling of Lincoln's experiences, provides a unique opportunity for middle grade readers to learn more about why Lincoln worked so tirelessly as President to end the institution of slavery in the United States.

Lowe, Helen: Thornspell

A.R 7.0

Prince Sigismund dreams of adventure as he wanders about the forbidden woods near his home. This story, full of mystery and romance, will grip readers as they follow Sigismund on his quest to wake a sleeping princess hidden in the forest. A creative retelling of the Sleeping Beauty story, from the prince's point of view.

Ouida Sebstyen: Words by Heart (Book Report only.)

Lena can recite the Scriptures by heart. Hoping to make her adored Papa proud of her and to make her white classmates notice her "Magic Mind," not her black skin, Lena vows to win the Bible-quoting contest. But winning does not bring Lena what she expected. Instead of honor, violence and death erupt and strike the one she loves most dearly. Lena, who has believed in vengeance, must now learn how to forgive