

Trinity Valley School

7th Grade Summer Reading 2021

Welcome to Seventh Grade Humanities!

In this class we grapple with questions about what makes us human through examination of cultures and their histories spanning the 1400s to the mid nineteenth century. We read stories revealing moral, spiritual, and intellectual sensibilities that help us understand the complexity of the human psyche. And through understanding comes empathy.

With that in mind, we invite you to read stories told from many perspectives. From biographies to historical fiction to fantasy to mystery, we hope the books you choose will have a transformative effect, revealing truth from a perspective that is not your own.

You may read as many as time allows,
and choose one for the Notes assignment, detailed on Page 4.



Ghost by Jason Reynolds. Castle Cranshow, known as Ghost, is an elite runner, but his speed can't always keep him out of trouble. First of four books in Reynold's *Track* series.

Restart by Gordon Korman. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof or anything else about himself. But he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of other kids and he isn't sure he likes that Chase. Can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina. Young Reader's Edition by Misty Copeland. The story of Misty Copeland's journey to become the first African-American woman principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre.

Small Acts of Amazing Courage by Gloria Whelan. Rosalind has had a lot of freedom growing up in India. When Gandhi's teachings cause unrest, her parents decide she would be safer living with her aunts in England.

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Crossover by Kwame Alexander - Twins Josh and JB are both basketball stars, but they aren't just alike. A novel in verse with the rhythm of a basketball smacking on the court, and a family in the midst of change.

Listen, Slowly by Thanhha Lai. How unfair! Mai must leave her comfy California summer plans to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother. And can you believe it? Unreliable cell phone service and only dial-up internet!

Year of the Hangman by Gary Blackwood. In 1777, having been kidnapped from England and taken to the American colonies, fifteen-year-old Creighton is enmeshed in developments that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history.

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling. Aven was born without arms, but that doesn't stop her from investigating a mystery. What will people think when she eats lunch with her feet?

Blizzard of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917 by Sally M. Walker. Two ships, one loaded with munitions, collided in Halifax Harbour, causing the largest man-made explosion, up to that time, and devastating damage.

Matched by Ally Condie - Cassia used to be secure in the idea that the Society knew what was best. Her certainty falters when she has to accept their choice of the boy she will be matched with for the rest of her life.

The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands. In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, tries to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart.

Endurance: My Year in Space and How I Got There. Young Readers Edition by Scott Kelly. Learn the story of Astronaut Kelly's life, and what it was like living for a year aboard the Space Station.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor. When your last name is "Buttle" you come in for some teasing. And there is another problem: Mason is suspected of murder.

Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale. The Galveston Flood of 1900 killed 8,000 people and destroyed much of the city. Seth and Zach are from two very different backgrounds, and they both must ride out the storm.

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The Storm Runner by J.C. Cervantes. Mayan myths are a big part of this adventure, set in New Mexico. Who knew that Zane had a gateway to another world, right in his own backyard?

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol (graphic novel) All Vera wants to do is fit in, but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Vera's mom can't afford fancy summer camps, but there's one in her price range—Russian summer camp.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. Venture to Middle-earth with Bilbo Baggins, a well-to-do Hobbit, who is quite content to stay at home. Yet after a visit from Gandalf the Grey, he finds himself on the greatest and most dangerous adventure of his formerly placid life.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy have captivated readers since this book's publication in 1868. Meet Marmee, Laurie and the rest as you lose yourself in this timeless classic, set during the Civil War.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare. Before the colonies declared independence, Kit Tyler lived with Puritans in Connecticut. Her unconventional habits and her friendship with a Quaker woman thought to be a witch means Kit herself is accused of witchcraft, and threatened by the townspeople.

City of Beasts by Isabel Allende. On an expedition to document the legendary Yeti of the Amazon known as the Beast, Alex and his new friend, Nadia, discover that they need their spirit guides' strength to lead them through hidden secrets and unexplored wilderness.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza thought she would always live a privileged life on her sprawling ranch in Mexico. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to rise to the challenges of life in a camp for Mexican farm workers.

Peter Pan by James Barrie. Peter and his band of lost boys live on an island where time does not exist, unless you are a grownup. You have seen the movies, you have seen the stage productions, so do yourself a favor and read the book!

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. Ponyboy and his "greaser" friends live on the wrong side of the tracks. In this story about class and social status, Ponyboy realizes that no matter how you wear your hair, or what car you drive, we are all very much the same. A classic coming of age story.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a tiny dragon who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Notes on Your Summer Reading
Tell us about your PERSPECTIVE on your chosen book!

Your Name: _____

Title of Book: _____

Author of book _____

As you read, use a separate piece of paper to take notes on these questions:

1. Who is telling the story?
2. How is the perspective different from your perspective as a Rising 7th grader, living in Texas in the summer of 2021?
3. In what ways is this person or story similar to you or your story? In what ways is this person or story different?
4. What is revealed about the human condition that you had not considered before? For example, how quick are we to judge, how easily do we cave, how some of us have more grit and courage than others?
5. Is there something from this story that you can apply to your life and the way you interact with the world?

You will use these notes during the first few weeks of school. Enjoy!