



Shady Side Academy

Summer Reading

2023

FORM I (7th Grade) Summer Reading List

Directions: You will read at least **four** books this summer for summer reading.

- 🐾 *The Seventh Most Important Thing* is required reading for all incoming 7th-grade students, and it should be read toward the end of summer so that it is fresh in your mind when school starts.
- 🐾 Choose at least three additional titles from at least two different genres on the list.
- 🐾 Students may select sequels to any of the listed books.
- 🐾 Complete an [assignment](#) for each of the three choice books.

All-Form Book

Pearsall, Shelley

The Seventh Most Important Thing

In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage.

Science Fiction

Card, Orson Scott

Ender's Game

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Dashner, James

The Maze Runner

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run.

Holyoke, Polly

The Neptune Project

A group of kids who have been genetically altered to survive in the ocean must embark on a dangerous underwater journey to find refuge--and maybe even a way to save the world.



Lore, Pittacus

I Am Number Four

John Smith seems like an ordinary teenager, living a normal life in Paradise, Ohio. But for John, keeping a low profile is essential, because he is *not* an ordinary teenager. He's an alien from the planet Lorien, and he's on the run. A group of evil aliens from the planet Mogadore, who destroyed his world, are hunting anyone who escaped.

Lu, Marie

Legend

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

Meyer, Marissa

Cinder

Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

Reynolds, Jason

Miles Morales: Spider-Man

Brooklyn Visions Academy student Miles Morales may not always want to be a super hero, but he must come to terms with his identity--and deal with a villainous teacher--as the new Spider Man.

Sanderson, Brandon

Steelheart

At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners--the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny.

Westerfeld, Scott

Uglies

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen-year-old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she does not like.

Historical Fiction

Alcott, Louisa May

Little Women

Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy. The four March sisters couldn't be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they must rely on one another.



Gratz, Alan
Ground Zero

Brandon is visiting his dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 when the attack comes. Reshmina is a girl in Afghanistan who has grown up in the aftermath of that attack but dreams of peace, becoming a teacher, and escaping her village and the narrow role that the Taliban believes is appropriate for women-- both are struggling to survive, both changed forever by the events of 9/11.

Hiranandani, Veera
The Night Diary

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Luqman-Dawson, Amina
Freewater

After fleeing the plantation where they were enslaved, siblings Ada and Homer discover the secret community of Freewater, and work with freeborn Sanzi to protect their new home from the encroaching dangers of the outside world.

Nielsen, Jennifer
Lines of Courage

World War I stretches its cruel fingers across Europe, where five young people from different backgrounds and nations face the terror of battle, the deprivations of hunger, and all the awful challenges of war. None of them will find exactly what they want. But the winds of fate may cross their paths to give each of them just what they need.

Sepetys, Ruta
Ashes in the Snow (also published as ***Between Shades of Gray***)

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life -- until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives.

Sharenow, Robert
The Berlin Boxing Club

Karl Stern has never thought of himself as a Jew; after all, he's never even been in a synagogue. But the bullies at his school in Nazi-era Berlin don't care that Karl's family doesn't practice religion. Demoralized by their attacks against a heritage he doesn't accept as his own, Karl longs to prove his worth. Then Max Schmeling, champion boxer and German hero, makes a deal with Karl's father to give Karl boxing lessons. A skilled cartoonist, Karl has never had an interest in boxing, but now it seems like the perfect chance to reinvent himself.

Smith, Sherri L.
Flygirl

During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.



Wolk, Lauren
Echo Mountain

When twelve-year-old Ellie and her family lose their livelihood and move to a mountain cabin in 1934, she quickly learns to be an outdoors woman and, when needed, a healer

Fantasy

Chupeco, Rin
The Bone Witch

Tea's gift for death magic means that she is a bone witch, a title that makes her feared and ostracized by her community, but when an older bone witch trains her to become an asha--one who can wield elemental magic--Tea will have to overcome her obstacles and make a powerful choice in the face of danger as dark forces approach.

Clayton, Dhonelle
The Marvellers

Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute. Despite her excitement, Ella discovers that being the first isn't easy. When a dangerous criminal escapes prison, supposedly with a Conjuror's aid, Ella becomes the target of suspicion.

Dasgupta, Sayantani
The Serpent's Secret

Up until her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala considered herself an ordinary sixth-grader in Parsippany, New Jersey, but then her parents disappear and a drooling rakkhosh demon shows up in her kitchen, and soon she is swept into another dimension, full of magic, winged horses, talking birds (very annoying), and cute princes--and somehow Kiranmala needs to sort it all out, find her parents, and basically save the world.

Johnson, Jaleigh
Mark of the Dragonfly

Since her father's death in a factory in the Dragonfly territories, thirteen-year-old Piper has eked out a living as a scrapper in Merrow Kingdom, but the arrival of a mysterious girl sends her on a dangerous journey to distant lands.

McNeal, Tom
Far, Far Away

When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate Ginger Boltinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown.



Sanderson, Brandon

The Rithmatist

As the son of a lowly chalkmaker at Armedius Academy, Joel can only watch as Rithmatist students learn the magical art that he would do anything to practice. Then students start disappearing—kidnapped from their rooms at night, leaving trails of blood. Assigned to help the professor who is investigating the crimes, Joel and his friend Melody find themselves on the trail of an unexpected discovery—one that will change Rithmatics—and their world—forever.

Tan, Sue Lynn

Daughter of the Moon Goddess

Growing up on the moon, Xingyin is accustomed to solitude, unaware that she is being hidden from the feared Celestial Emperor who exiled her mother for stealing his elixir of immortality. But when Xingyin's magic flares and her existence is discovered, she is forced to flee her home, leaving her mother behind.

Tolkien, J.R.R.

The Hobbit

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Uehashi, Nahoko

The Beast Player

Elin's family has an important responsibility: caring for the fearsome water serpents that form the core of their kingdom's army. So when some of the beasts mysteriously die, Elin's mother is sentenced to death as punishment. With her last breath she manages to send her daughter to safety. Alone, far from home, Elin soon discovers that she can talk to both the terrifying water serpents and the majestic flying beasts that guard her queen. This skill gives her great powers, but it also involves her in deadly plots that could cost her life.

Mystery

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn

The Inheritance Games

Avery Grambs's fortune changes in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch -- and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed.



Bodeen, S.A.

The Raft

Experienced traveler Robie, having decided to take a cargo plane from Honolulu to Midway Atoll after a visit with her aunt, struggles to survive with the co-pilot, Max, after the plane crashes in the Pacific Ocean and they are left on a raft in shark-infested waters with only one bag of Skittles.

Burt, Jake

Greetings from Witness Protection!

Thirteen-year-old Nikki Demere is an orphan and a kleptomaniac, making her the perfect girl to portray the Trevors' daughter in witness protection. After all, the bad guys are searching for a family with one kid, not two, and adding a streetwise girl who knows a little something about hiding things may be just what the marshals need.

Christie, Agatha

And Then There Were None

Ten strangers--each with a sordid past--are summoned by an absent millionaire to a private island off the coast of Devon and begin to die one by one upon arrival.

Frost, Helen

Hidden

Years after Darra Monson's father stole a minivan with Wren Abbott hiding in the back, the girls come face to face at summer camp and together they try to work through what happened to them and the impact it had on their lives.

Hiaasen, Carl

Squirm

Billy Dickens discovers that his mysterious father lives in Montana, so this summer Billy will fly across the country, hike a mountain, float a river, dodge a grizzly bear, shoot down a spy drone, and save his own father.

Horowitz, Anthony

Alex Rider

They said his uncle Ian died in a car accident. But Alex Rider knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in the windshield prove it. Yet he never suspected the truth: his uncle was really a spy for Britain's top secret intelligence agency. Now Alex has been recruited to find his uncle's killers.

Ponti, James

City Spies

Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. But then she gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of MI6 affiliated spies



Schwab, Victoria

City of Ghosts

Ever since Cass almost drowned (okay, she did drown, but she doesn't like to think about it), she can pull back the Veil that separates the living from the dead . . . and enter the world of spirits. Her best friend is even a ghost. When Cass meets a girl who shares her "gift," she realizes how much she still has to learn about the Veil -- and herself. And she'll have to learn fast. The city of ghosts is more dangerous than she ever imagined.

General Fiction

Anderson, John David

Posted

A group of middle school students decide to begin leaving sticky notes for each other after cell phones are banned, but soon the kids in school are leaving cutting and cruel notes, and nothing will ever be the same.

Benjamin, Ali

The Next Great Paulie Fink

Led by new student Caitlyn, seventh-graders at a tiny rural school in Vermont create a reality-show inspired competition to determine who will replace the school's legendary class clown, Paulie Fink.

Feinstein, John

The Sports Beat (select any of the titles in this six-book series)

Best-selling author John Feinstein writes sports-themed mysteries set at major sporting events including the NCAA Final Four, the Superbowl, the World Series and more.

Fipps, Lisa

Starfish

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

Gino, Alex

Rick

Eleven-year-old Rick Ramsey has generally gone along with everybody, just not making waves, even though he is increasingly uncomfortable with his father's jokes about girls, and his best friend's explicit talk about sex; but now in middle school he discovers the Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities can express themselves--and maybe among them he can find new friends and discover his own identity.



Keller, Tae

Jennifer Chan is Not Alone

Jennifer doesn't care about the laws of middle school, or the laws of the universe. She believes in aliens—and she thinks she can find them. Then Jennifer goes missing. Using clues from Jennifer's journals, Mallory goes searching. But the closer she gets, the more Mallory has to confront why Jennifer might have run . . . and face the truth within herself.

Lippincott, Rachel

Five Feet Apart

Stella needs to keep herself away from anyone or anything that might pass along an infection and jeopardize the possibility of a lung transplant. Six feet apart. No exceptions. Will Newman is *exactly* what Stella needs to stay away from. If he so much as breathes on Stella, she could lose her spot on the transplant list. Either one of them could die. The only way to stay alive is to stay apart. But suddenly six feet doesn't feel like safety. It feels like punishment.

Ramee, Lisa Moore

A Good Kind of Trouble

Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker

Black Brother, Black Brother

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

Nonfiction/Memoir

Afremow, Jim

The Young Champion's Mind: How to Think, Train, and Thrive Like an Elite Athlete

As student athletes strive to balance their school and sports accomplishments, Dr. Afremow's sage advice will be a much-needed guide in helping them navigate the field—or rink or court. *The Young Champion's Mind* covers such topics as how to get in a "zone," thrive on a team, and stay humble, and how to progress within a sport and sustain long-term excellence.

Dumas, Firoozeh

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America

Firoozeh Dumas recounts the experiences she had after her family moved from Iran to Southern California, discussing how her family adapted to life in America.



Gao, Laura

Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American

After spending her early years in Wuhan, China, riding water buffalos and devouring stinky tofu, Laura immigrates to Texas, where her hometown is as foreign as Mars—at least until 2020, when COVID-19 makes Wuhan a household name.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed

When Stars are Scattered

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. When Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

Kilmeade, Brian and Don Yaeger

George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution

Portrays the intelligence agents known as George Washington's secret six, who were recruited by George Washington to gather information secretly and thus contributed significantly to the general's successes in the Revolutionary War.

Montgomery, Sy

How to Be a Good Creature

This restorative memoir reflects on the personalities and quirks of thirteen animals—Sy's friends—and the truths revealed by their grace. It also explores vast themes: the otherness and sameness of people and animals; the various ways we learn to love and become empathetic; how we find our passion; how we create our families; coping with loss and despair; gratitude; forgiveness; and most of all, how to be a good creature in the world.

Sheinkin, Steve

Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown

After the United States showed its hand with the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the Soviets refuse to be left behind. With communism sweeping the globe, the two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night.

Stevenson, Bryan

Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice

Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society - the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization.

Tyson, Neil DeGrasse

Astrophysics for Young People in a Hurry

From the basics of physics to big questions about the nature of space and time, celebrated astrophysicist and science communicator Neil deGrasse Tyson breaks down the mysteries of the cosmos into bite-sized pieces.

Annotations adapted from publishers, Follett and Amazon.com

