

# Summer Reading Assignment

## Grade 7

For the 2023 Summer Reading Program, you must choose a book from the attached list. These books were selected because they all are grade level appropriate and have themes that connect to the novels and short stories that you will be reading in class next year.

The attached assignment is due to your assigned Language Arts Teacher on **Monday, September 11, 2023**. The assignment will be graded using the attached rubric and will count as a grade for the 1st Marking Period. If you are taking Advanced Language Arts, you must complete the additional assignment that is included.

### **Summer Reading Directions:**

1. Select a book for the approved reading list.
2. Read the book over the summer and complete your assignment.
3. Submit your completed reading assignment to your Language Arts teacher by **Monday, September 11, 2023**.

Have a great summer and enjoy reading!



# *Lyndhurst Middle School* Grade 7 Summer Reading



## **Short Stories**

### **Flying Lessons and Other Stories by Ellen Oh (2017)**

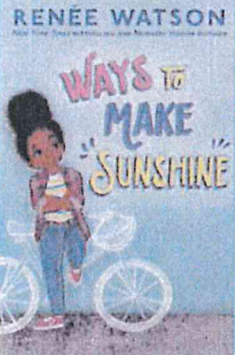


School Library  
Journal's Best  
Books

Whether it is  
basketball  
dreams, family  
fiascos, first  
crushes, or new  
neighborhoods,  
this short story

collection —written by the best children's  
authors—celebrates the uniqueness and  
universality in all of us in a story collection  
that is as humorous as it is heartfelt. This  
impressive group of authors has earned  
among them every major award in  
children's publishing and popularity.

### **Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson (2020)**

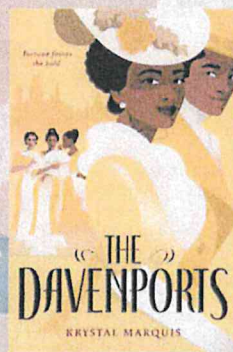


SLJ Best Books of  
the Year

Ryan Hart can be  
and do anything.  
Her name means  
"king", that she is  
a leader, and she  
is determined to  
keep growing into  
the name her  
parents gave her.

She is all about trying to see the best in  
people, to be a good daughter, sister, and  
friend. But Ryan has a lot on her mind. For  
instance: Dad finally has a new job, but  
money is still tight. That means some  
changes, like moving into a new (old)  
house, and Dad working the night shift. As  
even more changes and challenges come  
her way, Ryan always finds a way forward  
and shows she is a girl who knows how to  
glow.

### **The Davenports by Krystal Marquis**

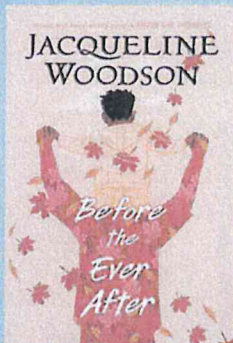


ALSC Summer  
Reading List

In this historical  
fiction novel set in  
1910s Chicago, a  
group of Black  
teens takes us into  
an often  
overlooked side of  
American history:  
the lives of  
wealthy African

Americans and their experience of  
classism, familial expectations, and gender  
norms.

### **Before The Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson (2020)**



Coretta Scott King  
Award Winner

For as long as ZJ  
can remember, his  
dad has been  
everyone's hero.  
As a charming,  
talented pro  
football star, he's  
as beloved to the

neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to  
his millions of adoring sports fans. But  
lately his dad is having trouble  
remembering things and seems to be  
angry all the time. As ZJ contemplates his  
new reality, he looks to hold on tight to  
family traditions, all the while wondering  
what the past amounts to if his father can't  
remember it.

### **Blended by Sharon Draper (2018)**

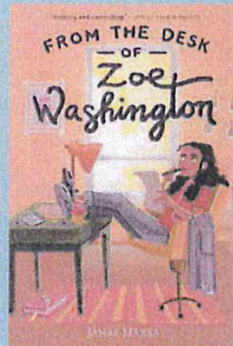


School Library  
Journal Best  
Books

Eleven-year-old  
Isabella is  
constantly  
navigating  
between two  
worlds, especially  
now that her  
parents are  
divorced. One

week she's Isabella with her dad living in a  
fancy house where they are one of the  
only black families in the neighborhood.  
The next week she's Izzy with her mom in a  
small, not-so-fancy house that she loves.  
Splitting her time is more than switching  
houses, it's also about switching identities.  
How can Isabella ever feel whole?

### **From The Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks (2020)**



Junior Library  
Guild Selection

Zoe Washington  
isn't sure what to  
write. What does  
a girl say to the  
father she's never  
met, who she had  
not heard from  
until his letter

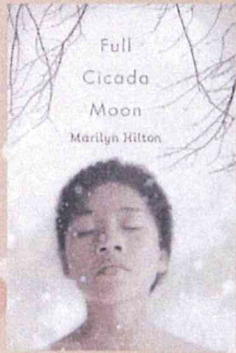
arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's  
been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime  
he says he never committed. Could Zoe's  
father Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is  
determined to uncover the truth even if it  
means giving up some of her own dreams  
to prove it.



# Lyndhurst Middle School Grade 7 Summer Reading



## Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton (2015)



APALA Literature  
Award Winner

It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont

town is enough to make her feel alien. Mimi struggles to fit in with her classmates, even as she fights for her rights to stand out by entering science competitions and joining Shop Class instead of Home Ec. Mimi's dreams of becoming an astronaut never fade—no matter how many times she's told no.

## Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes (2010)

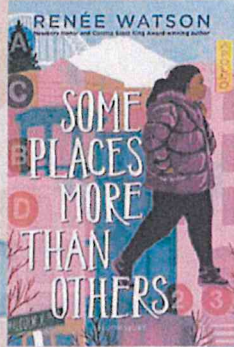


Coretta Scott King  
Book Award  
Winner

Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. She doesn't have a fancy house or lots of friends, but what she does

have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving, future-predicting caretaker. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane—Katrina—fast approaching, it's up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.

## Some Places More Than Others by Renee Watson (2019)

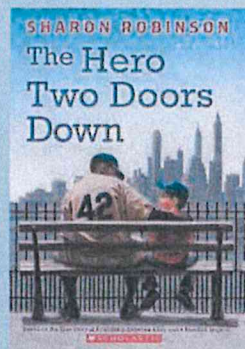


ALSC Notable  
Children's Book

All Amara wants is to visit her father's family in Harlem and every landmark from the Apollo to Langston Hughes's home.

Her wish comes true when her dad decides to bring her along on a business trip. But her family, and even the city, is not quite what Amara thought. As she learns more and more about Harlem—and her father's history—Amara realizes how, in some ways more than others, she can connect with this other home and family.

## The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between



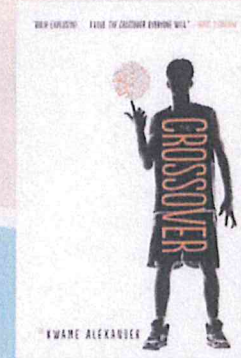
a Boy and a  
Baseball  
Legend by  
Sharon  
Robinson  
(2016)

Young Readers  
Award

Stephen Satlow  
is an  
eight-year-old

boy living in Brooklyn, New York, which means he only cares about one thing—the Dodgers. Aside from an occasional run-in with his teacher, life is pretty simple for Steve. Then he finds out his new neighbor is none other than Jackie Robinson! Steve is beyond excited about living two doors down from the Robinson family. He can't wait to meet Jackie. This is going to be the best baseball season yet! How many kids ever get to become friends with their hero?

## The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (2014)

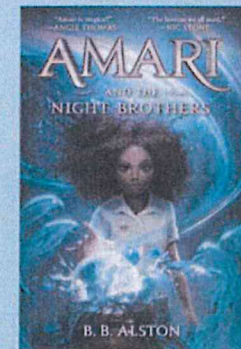


Newbery Medal  
Winner

Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the basketball court. Both brothers must come to grips with growing up on and off the

court, each in their own way. The brothers come to realize that breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

## Amari and the Night Brothers by RR Alston (2021)



Rebecca Caudill  
Young Readers'  
Book Award  
Nominee  
Ignite Award  
Nominee for Best  
Middle Grade  
Novel

Amari's beloved  
older brother has  
vanished. But, she

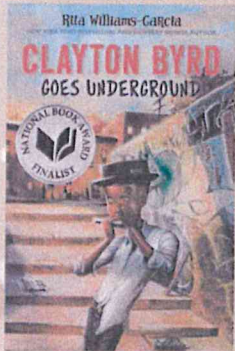
gets a virtual message from him revealing that she's a magician and will get to attend a secret magician school. There, she discovers she's actually an outlawed dark magic magician destined to do evil. Only Amari knows she's not and is determined to prove it, stay in the school, and ultimately, find her missing brother.



# Lyndhurst Middle School Grade 7 Summer Reading



## Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia (2017)

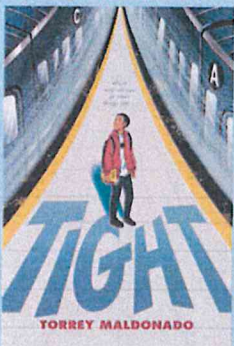


National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature

Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he

can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live. Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey Clayton learns some things that surprise him.

## Tight by Torrey Maldonado (2018)



ALSC Notable Children's Book

Bryan knows what's tight for him--reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama is every day where he's

from, and that gets him tight, wound up. And now Bryan's friend Mike pressures him with ideas of fun that are crazy risky. But Bryan never really feels right acting so wrong, and drama really isn't him. So which way will he go, especially when his dad tells him it's better to be hard and feared than liked?

## Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (2002)

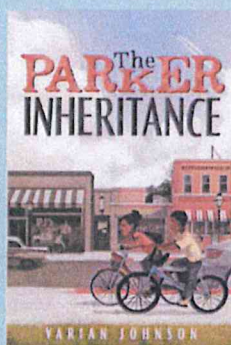


Newbery Medal  
Coretta Scott King Award

In 1936 Flint, Michigan times may be hard, but Bud's got a few things going for him:  
1. He has a suitcase full of special things,

2. He's the author of Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life, and 3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue. Once he decides to hit the road to find this mystery man, nothing can stop him—not hunger, not fear, and especially not vampires.

## The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson (2018)

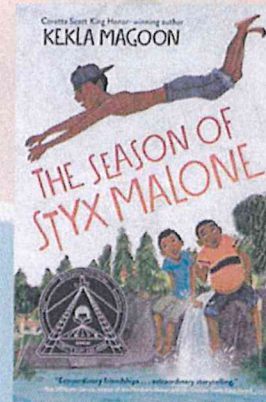


Coretta Scott King Book Award  
Publishers Weekly Best Book

A letter waits in a book, in a box, in an attic, in an old house in Lambert, South Carolina for

Candice Miller. When Candice finds the letter, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left Lambert in a cloud of shame. But the letter describes a mystery and injustice that happened decades ago along with a fortune for the person who solves the puzzle.

## The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon (2018)

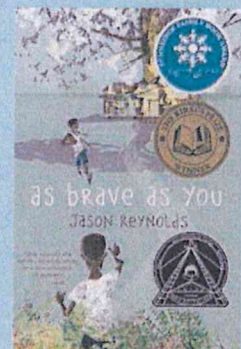


Coretta Scott King Book Award Honor

Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene have the whole summer for adventures in the woods behind their house in Sutton, Indiana.

Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town, but his dad likes the family to stay close to home. Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. It becomes clear that Styx has secrets--secrets so big they could ruin everything.

## As Brave As You Are by Jason Reynolds (2016)



Schneider Family Book Award  
Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big

brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck, Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he hides it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans).



*Lyndhurst Middle School*  
Grade 7  
Summer Reading



**Front Desk by Kelly Yang (2018)**

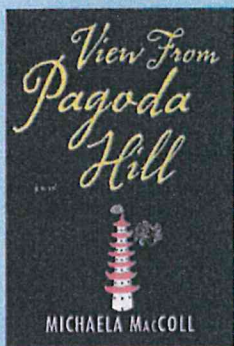


APA Award for Literature Winner

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants in the motel without telling the hotel's

owner, Mr. Yao. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

**View from Pagoda Hill by Michaela MacColl (2021)**



Grateful American Book Prize Winner

Twelve-year-old Ning doesn't know where she belongs. The daughter of a Chinese woman and American man, Ning doesn't

fit in in 1870s Shanghai, where her American features and unbound feet make her stand out. When she receives news that her father will be visiting from America, Ning excitedly hopes that her parents will become a family. Instead, she learns that her father is taking her back with him to America. Ning wonders if being American will finally give her a sense of belonging, but when she arrives, she discovers that living in America isn't perfect either.

**We Are Not Free by Traci Chee (2020)**



National Book Award Finalist  
Printz Award Honor

Story of a tight-knit group of young Nisei, second-generation Japanese American citizens, whose lives are irrevocably changed by the

mass U.S. incarcerations of World War II. These teens have grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco and form a community and a family, as interconnected as they are conflicted.

**Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly (2017)**

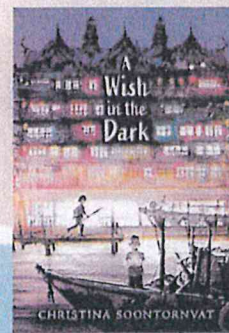


Newbery Medal Winner

A story celebrating bravery, being different, and finding your inner bayani (hero). In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways.

Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted. Valencia Somerset is smart, brave, and secretly lonely. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, and Chet Bullens wishes he could just concentrate on basketball. They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank and friendship blooms.

**A Wish in the Dark by Christina Soontornvat (2020)**



Newbery Medal Honor

Set in a fantasy world, Chattana, created by one man — the Governor. For Pong, who was born in Namwon Prison, the magical

lights represent freedom, and he dreams of the day he will be able to walk among them. But when Pong escapes from prison, Nok, the prison warden's perfect daughter, is bent on tracking Pong down and restoring her family's good name. But as Nok hunts Pong through the alleys and canals of Chattana, she uncovers secrets that make her question the truths she has always held dear.

**Students may choose a title from this list for their summer reading assignment. We encourage parents and guardians to be actively involved in the selection process. To gain a better understanding of the titles we recommend the following sites to guide you:**

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble
- Common Sense Media

**To apply for a free public library card contact:**

**Lyndhurst Free Public Library**  
355 Valley Brook Avenue  
Lyndhurst, NJ, United States  
201-804-2478  
<http://www.lyndhurstlibrary.org>



## Assignment

**Double-Entry Journal Directions:** While you are reading, you may wish to use post-its, mark up the text, or record notes on a separate piece of paper. Ultimately, you will complete and submit your double-entry journal to your next year's Language Arts teacher. Please note that the double-entry journal will be graded and serve as a planning for another assignment in the first weeks of school.

**The following checklist was created to support the completion of the Double-Entry Journal:**

1. On a separate paper, create a two-column chart for one summer reading book of fiction or nonfiction (see the example at the bottom).
2. Label the left-hand column as "Citation." In the "Citation" column, cite **four** quoted passages that seem significant to the book's central idea, the author's message, or a situation in the text. Citations may be dialogue or regular narration.
3. Include one citation from the beginning, two citations from the middle, and one citation from the end of the text.
4. Make sure to include the author's last name and page number at the end of each citation. Therefore, you will have a total of **4 citations**.
5. Label the right-hand column "Significance." In the "Significance" column, provide some background information from the text about the citation.
6. In addition, record thoughts or reactions that relate to the citations. For example, explain, **in your own words**, the importance of each citation as it relates to a theme, main idea, or situation. In the end, make sure to explain why the citation is significant.
7. Please avoid plagiarism as defined by The OWL at Purdue Online Writing Lab web site: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>. In other words, record your **own** ideas. You are not permitted to use outside sources.
8. A rubric for the double-entry journal is included on the last page of this document.

**Example of a double-entry journal response from the beginning of R.J. Palacio's *Wonder*:**

Citation	Significance
<p>"August is the Sun. Me and Mom and Dad are the planets orbiting the Sun. The rest of our family and friends are asteroids and comets floating around the planets orbiting the Sun" (Palacio 82).</p> <p><b>[Please note that the citation is in quotes. Although it is possible to cite dialogue, one can also cite regular narration that does not record what a character is saying. In any case, the citation should appear exactly as it appears in the text. Furthermore, the citation is followed by a parenthetical citation that includes the author's last name and the page number.]</b></p>	<p>The second part of <i>Wonder</i> is narrated by Auggie's sister Via. In this passage, Via uses an extended metaphor to describe the way Auggie takes up all of her parents' time and attention; she compares him to the sun and the rest of her family to the planets that orbit the sun. Via does this in order to express how she often feels neglected and forgotten by her parents, as all of their attention is directed towards Auggie and towards his medical condition. It seems like Via struggles with these emotions throughout the course of the novel. She goes on to describe how she copes with feeling alone for so many years, and how being Auggie's sister has become the only part of her identity that people care about. It also seems like many of the other characters also struggle with the idea of identity and figuring out who they are. I wonder if Via will express these emotions to her parents in the future, and if they will be understanding of her.</p>

An additional resource for the Double-Entry Journal can be found at:  
<http://www.adlit.org/strategies/22091/>

**ELA Advanced Assignment**

In addition to the above double-entry journal, find an **informational source** (e.g. article, video, podcast, etc.) that relates to a topic explored in your book of choice. Then, write a paragraph explaining how the source relates to a topic in your book, and cite evidence from the source to support your answer. Include a link to the informational source as reference.

Double-Entry Journal Rubric

Category	4	3	2	1
Relevancy of Quotes	All quotes are thorough, thoughtful, and insightfully relate to the essential questions.	Most quotes chosen are fairly thorough and adequately relate to the essential questions.	Some quotes are incomplete or irrelevant.	Many quotes are disjointed, incomplete, or irrelevant.
Quality of Responses	All responses demonstrate a keen insight into the novel and do an exceptional job of explaining the connection between the textual evidence and the essential question(s). All responses are highly developed and insightful.	All responses demonstrate a keen insight into the novel and do an exceptional job of explaining the connection between the textual evidence and the essential question(s). All responses are highly developed and insightful.	Some entries demonstrate a lack of insight into the novel and do not adequately explain the connection between the textual evidence and the essential question(s). Some development is present.	Entries paraphrase quotes from the novel. No evidence of insights beyond summary.
Format	All quotes are in quotation marks and followed by proper parenthetical documentation.	Quotes are frequently in quotation marks and followed by parenthetical documentation.	Quotes are sometimes in quotation marks and followed by parenthetical documentation.	Most of the quotes are not documented in quotation marks and lack parenthetical documentation
Select Range of Quotes	Quotations are selected from the entire chapter; selections reflect a comprehensive reading of the entire chapter	Quotations are selected from most of the chapter; selections suggest close reading but student may not have finished the chapter	Quotations selected suggest student only completed reading of half the chapter	Quotations are only selected from the first few pages of the chapter
Conventions, Usage, Neatness	Demonstrates control of the conventions with essentially no errors; responses are organized and typed neatly	Demonstrates control of the conventions with a few grammatical errors that don't distract from overall meaning; responses are organized and typed neatly	Demonstrates minimal control of conventions with many grammatical errors that distract from overall meaning; responses are disorganized	Demonstrates overall lack and control of writing conventions; consistently disorganized and distracting
Overall Effort	Overall outstanding effort demonstrated through the assignment	Overall quality effort demonstrated throughout the assignment	Lack of consistent effort demonstrated throughout the assignment	Little to no effort demonstrated throughout the assignment

Total:            /24 =            %



Category	4	3	2	1
Comparison Paragraph (Advanced Course)	Informational source relates to a topic in chosen novel, paragraph is a minimum of 5-7 sentences, well developed, with specific examples and evidence comparing the source to the novel's topic.	Informational source mostly relates to the topic, paragraph is a minimum of 5-7 sentences, mostly developed, with examples comparing the source to the novel's topic.	Informational source somewhat relates to the topic and an attempt is made to compare it to the novel's topic.	Informational source is missing or does not particularly relate to the topic, and/or student did not write a paragraph comparing them.

Total (Advanced):                      /28 =                      %