

2024 Summer Reading

7th Grade

*"Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life."
~ Golda Meir*

Welcome rising seventh graders! Your teachers are excited to meet you and are looking forward to working with you. As seventh graders you will continue to grow the skills you developed in sixth grade. The work we are about to dive into in 7th grade will deepen your reading and writing skills by using analysis, paying close attention to detail, and providing reasons, proofs, and examples for the ideas you express.

This summer we would like you to read **ONE** title from the *7th Grade Summer Reading Book List* or a book of your choice. We encourage you to read as many additional titles as you wish. As you read, be sure to take notes on the book, focusing on the essential question, **How does literature help me understand my own identity and gain insight into the identities of other people?** You can use a notebook or post-it notes to keep track of your thoughts and ideas about the book. This will help you remember the story and prepare for a Socratic Seminar when you return to school.

This summer we would like you to reflect on your own place in your community and in the world. In seventh grade, you will take a journey to understand your own identity, the identities of other people, and how your story is part of a larger global story.

Please know that at the end of September, you will be participating in a Socratic Seminar. Each student will be sharing their views and ideas based on the book they read. Your teacher will ask you to reflect on the seminar as an in-class assignment. This will count as a written grade towards your first-quarter grade.

Tasks and Resources

Task: You will read one book and begin reflecting on the Essential Question:

How does literature help me understand my own identity and gain insight into the identities of other people?

In order to complete this task, you will need to do the following:

1. Read **one** text of your choice from the *7th Grade Summer Reading Book List* or a **book of your choice** that aligns to the above essential question.
2. Prepare to participate in a Socratic Seminar when you return to school by:
 - Reflecting on the essential question.
 - Taking notes to keep track of your thoughts and ideas about identity and the book.
 - Choosing **one** quote from the beginning, middle, and end of the text (**three** quotes in total) that are important and made an impact on you.



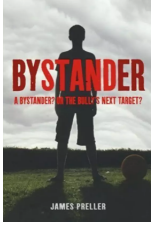
Questions to consider . . .

As you continue on this journey this journey with your 7th grade team, consider the following questions:

- What are the factors/forces that shape our identity?
- How do people define themselves?
- What parts of your identity do you choose for yourself?
- What parts of your identity are determined for you by other people or by society?
- How does someone create/express their identity?
- How does someone challenge cultural expectations of identity?
- How is our identity shaped by place?
- How does literature help you reflect on your life and gain insight into the lives of others?
- How is your story part of the larger global story?
- How are people similar to you and different from you?
- What do stories teach us about identity?



7th Grade Summer Reading Book List



Bystander by Preller James

Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin - he's a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander . . . to the bully's next victim.



Booked by Kwame Alexander

In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *THE CROSSOVER*, soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse by poet Kwame Alexander bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match!



Brown Girl Dreaming by

Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s & 1970s, and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she became.

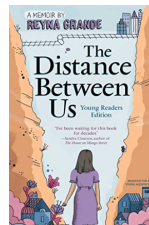


EQ: How does literature help me understand my own identity and gain insight into the identities of other people?



Revolution by Deborah Wiles

It's 1964, and Sunny's town is being invaded. Or at least that's what the adults of Greenwood, Mississippi, are saying. All Sunny knows is that people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. Meanwhile, Sunny can't help but feel like her house is being invaded, too. She has a new stepmother, a new brother, and a new sister crowding her life, giving her little room to breathe. And things get even trickier when Sunny and her brother are caught sneaking into the local swimming pool -- where they bump into a mystery boy whose life is going to become tangled up in theirs.



The Distance Between Us by Reyna Grande

"In this funny, heartbreaking, and lyrical memoir about her childhood in Mexico, Reyna Grande skillfully depicts another side of the immigrant experience—the hardships and heartbreaks of the children who are left behind." A story of a childhood spent torn between two parents and two countries. As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to "El Otro Lado" (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to "El Otro Lado" to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father.