



Reader's Choice Summer 2025

Rising 7th Graders, please choose a book that you have never read before and read it during the summer. Those titles marked with the digital audiobook icon  are available to listen to on the SORA app. You may choose to read fiction or nonfiction; it's your choice.

Author	Title
Abrahams	<i>Behind the Curtain</i> Ingrid, a Sherlock Holmes devotee, becomes involved in two sinister plots in this small-town mystery. Clues lead Ingrid to believe that there is a steroid abuse problem in her high school. She is kidnapped when she gets too close to the answer. 
Alston	<i>Amari and the Night Brothers</i> Amari's big brother had full scholarship offers to two different Ivy League schools. When he mysteriously goes missing, his little sister, 13-year-old Amari Peters, can't understand why it's not a bigger deal. Why isn't his story all over the news? And why do the police automatically assume he was into something illegal? 
Anderson	<i>Stowaway</i> Apparently, Earth's core contains the most valuable substance in the universe. Luckily some nice friendly aliens show up to show us how to use it. Well, it seems that way at first. It won't be long before a kid named Leo is stowing away on an alien ship trying to find his missing family.
Armstrong	<i>Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World</i> Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew were attempting to sail from England and cross Antarctica. The ship Endurance sank and their survival story begins there. Nonfiction 
Baldacci	<i>The Finisher</i> Vega Jane was always told there was nothing outside Wormwood. And she always believed it -- until the night she saw Quentin Herms run away. He left behind a trail of clues that point to a dark conspiracy at the heart of Wormwood. 

Bauer	<p><i>Hope was Here</i></p> <p>When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.</p>
Bauer	<p><i>Almost Home</i></p> <p>A young girl faced with homelessness, manages to not only survive but rescues a dog and remembers what her mother taught her about always being grateful.</p>
Berry	<p><i>The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place</i></p> <p>What do you do if the two adults in charge of your strict boarding school suddenly die during dinner? You would probably not decide to cover it up and pretend nothing happened. But these girls want the freedom to solve the murder mystery on their own.</p>
Blackwood	<p><i>Around the World in 100 Days</i></p> <p>A Car race in the days when cars were a new fad finds adventure, betrayal and suspense. Harry Fogg is determined to complete the trip and win the prize in spite of sabotage, bandits and mechanical difficulties.</p>
Blackwood	<p><i>Year of the Hangman</i></p> <p>It is 1777, and the Americans have lost the war! Fifteen-year-old Creighton having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, becomes part of this story of altered history.</p>
Carson	<p><i>Gifted Hands</i></p> <p>The true story of the neurosurgeon who started out believing he was the dumbest kid in the class. Through hard work he becomes the surgeon who was able to separate conjoined twins that no one else could. Nonfiction</p>
Carter	<p><i>I'd tell you I love you but then I'd have to Kill you</i></p> <p>Very exclusive private school is actually training future female spies. Things get complicated when one of the students falls for a boy from town who thinks it's a normal school.</p>
Creech	<p><i>Walk Two Moons</i></p> <p>After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.</p>

Curtis	<p><i>The Mighty Miss Malone</i></p> <p>Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit, and end up in a shantytown outside Flint, Michigan.</p>
Curtis	<p><i>Bud Not Buddy</i></p> <p>Bud's got an idea that those flyers his momma left behind will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him--not hunger, not fear, not even vampires.</p>
Dahl	<p><i>Matilda</i></p> <p>Matilda is smart, sweet and wants to be part of a happy family. Unfortunately she has obnoxious, ignorant parents. She applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Classic</i></p>
DasGupta	<p><i>The Serpent's Secret</i></p> <p>Kiranmala never believed the tales about Indian princesses and another dimension full of magic until suddenly she finds herself in the middle of an adventure with two princes trying to save her.</p>
Evans	<p><i>Prisoner of Cell 25 (any in this series)</i></p> <p>Most kids think Michael just has Tourette's syndrome. The truth is far more unusual. Michael and few others born under unusual circumstances, have unusual power over electricity.</p>
Farmer	<p><i>The Ear, the Eye and the Arm</i></p> <p>Science Fiction, Adventure and superpowers! In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped. Three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.</p>
Feinstein	<p><i>Last Shot: (or any in Final Four series)</i></p> <p>Two teen reporters uncover a plan to blackmail one of the Final Four basketball players into losing the game. They need to uncover the plot before the buzzer sounds.</p>
Ferris	<p><i>Once Upon a Marigold (any in this series)</i></p> <p>A young man with a mysterious past leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.</p>
Fritz	<p><i>Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider</i></p> <p>His face is on the ten-dollar bill and the Broadway show about his life is a huge hit. Hamilton arrived in New York as an immigrant, an outsider. He fought in the American Revolution. As one of America's Founding Fathers, he was there for the writing of the Constitution.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Nonfiction</i></p>

Fleischman***Escape!: The story of the Great Houdini***

A biography of the many who could walk through walls, escape drowning, and shatter iron chains. The rare photos in this book might help you figure it out. So might the exclusive update about the rumor that Houdini was poisoned.

Nonfiction

Gemeinhart***Good Dog***

Good dogs go to heaven but this dog wants to go back and take care of the boy who needs him. He is willing to risk everything to make sure his boy is safe.

Gemeinhart***The Midnight Children***

Ravani Foster discovers his new friend Virginia and her six mysterious runaway companions are in danger; he must fight to keep them safe, or lose the only person who has ever understood him.

George***Julie of the Wolves***

When Julie returns to her father's Eskimo village, she struggles to find a way to save her beloved wolves in a changing Arctic world and she falls in love with a young Siberian man.

Classic

Gratz***Code of Honor***

An Iranian American teen finds out that his Navy SEAL brother is accused of being a terrorist. He knows this can't be true and it is only because he knows his brother so well that he knows he is sending coded messages.

Gratz***Prisoner B-3087***

A Jewish boy in 1930s Poland is at the mercy of the Nazis. Everyone he loves has been snatched away from him. Yanek himself is taken prisoner his arm tattooed with the words PRISONER B-3087. Based on a true story of a boy who survives 10 different concentration camps.

Haddix***Uprising***

March 25, 1911 a spark, and a building is engulfed in fire, leading to one of the worst workplace disasters ever. Meet Bella, Yetta and Jane who were there when the factory burned.

Halam***Dr. Franklin's Island***

When their plane crashes over the Pacific Ocean, three science students are left stranded on a tropical island and then imprisoned by a doctor who is performing horrifying experiments on humans involving the transfer of animal genes.

Hale  	Book of 1000 Days A princess locked in the tower until she agrees to marry the man her father has chosen, is joined by her young servant who agrees to be locked up with her.
Hanley	The Seer and the Sword Princess Torina, who has the ability to see the future, and her friend Landen, who seeks a sword that belongs to his conquered kingdom, are separated when a treacherous murderer gains power, but from exile each works to restore peace and the rightful rulers.
Hiassen  	Hoot Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
Hiaasen  	Flush Pirates, gambling and illegal sewage dumping combine to create a funny adventure in Florida
Hiaasen  	Scat A missing Science teacher, a class bully and a rare panther are all in danger from an oil drilling company.
Hiaasen  	Chomp The reality TV star is a fake but the alligators are real. A runaway girl named Tuna adds danger when her crazy father chases them all through the Florida Everglades
Hillman	I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree Memoir of a Schindler's List survivor Nonfiction
Holm	Our Only May Amelia As the only girl in a Finnish American family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington state in 1899.
Hopkinson  	Titanic: Voices of the Disaster Real witnesses and survivors of the Titanic disaster tell their stories. Nonfiction
Horowitz  	Stormbreaker (Any in Alex Rider series) After a chance encounter with an assassin in France, teenage spy Alex Rider investigates international pop star Damian Cray whose new video game venture hides sinister motives involving Air Force One, nuclear missiles, and the international drug trade.

Keller	Jennifer Chan is Not Alone Sometimes middle school can make you feel like you are alone in the universe. But what do you do when your best friend is acting weird and thinks there are aliens visiting earth. What if we aren't alone in the universe?
L'Engle	A Wrinkle in Time (any in series) Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government. <i>Classic</i>
Lawrence	Wreckers (any of the books in the Wreckers series) Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded.
Lewis	Any of the Chronicles of Narnia series <i>Classic</i>
Liparulo	House of Dark Shadows A scary story of a family that starts to fix up an old house only to discover a strange man inside the house. The family is baffled until they discover the hidden door that leads to stranger places
Lowry	The Giver (any in the Giver series) Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians. <i>Classic</i>
Lowry	Number the Stars In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.
Lupica	Summer Ball The sequel to Travel Team; Danny is feeling the pressure of being number one. He plays as well as ever, but he's still the smallest boy on the court and anxiously hoping for a growth spurt
Lupica	Travel Team Hard work and plenty of basketball skill aren't enough to get Danny a spot on the 7 th grade team. Danny's father steps in to start a new team from those that were not picked. His father is a famous basketball player but not nearly as skilled at being a dad.
Luqman-Dawson	Freewater Through tangled vines, secret doorways, and over a sky bridge, two kids find a secret community called Freewater, deep in the swamp.

Summer 2025 Rising 7th Graders

Magoon

In this society created by formerly enslaved people and some freeborn children, Homer finds new friends, almost forgetting where he came from. But when he learns of a threat that could destroy Freewater, he crafts a plan to find his mother and help his new home.

The Season of Styx Malone

A new kid moves into town and he is full of great ideas, like the escalator trade. Start with something small and keep making trades always getting something just a little better until you finally get your ultimate goal.

Maguire

Egg & Spoon

A fun tale about two girls who get swapped in a *Prince and the Pauper* fashion. Set in Tzarist Russia and pulling from Russian Folklore, this story has adventure humor and heart.

Mbalia



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

7th Grader Tristan is healing from a bus accident (the one where he couldn't save his best friend). He accidentally breaks the barrier between our world and a place filled with African folk heroes and Anansi the trickster.

Melvin



Chasing Space

Leland Melvin is both a former astronaut and NFL wide receiver.
Nonfiction

Patterson



Maximum Ride (any in this series)

The government research facility was trying to create a super warrior; one with the abilities of some of the birds but the intelligence of humans. What resulted were winged kids. The wings work but they have never had families or freedom until now.

Patterson



Ali Cross

Abraham has suddenly gone missing. His best friend Ali is scared but desperate to use what he has learned from his detective father to find him. It might be related to all the other crime going on recently.

Philbrick



Freak the Mighty

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Ritland



Navy Seal Dogs

My Tale of training canines for combat.

Nonfiction

RothDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Divergent***

In a future world every teen must decide which of the five societies to join. Will they stay with the people who raised them or reject their way of life and become something new?

RyanDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Echo***

Three stories of kids in difficult positions but they all have one thing in common and that one thing is a harmonica! If you like music or history this book is for you.

SalisburyDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Under the Blood Red Sun***

When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Tomi and his 8th grade baseball team are suddenly worrying about being considered enemies because they are Japanese Americans.

SantosDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Connect the Stars***

When 13 years-olds meet at a wilderness camp in the desert, they think their quirks are enough to prevent them from ever having friends. But their personal challenges will become superpowers. The leader will be weak but the bullied will succeed.

SchmidtDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy***

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

SchmidtDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***The Labors of Hercules Beal***

7th Grader Hercules Beal has to figure out how to fulfill an assignment to perform the Twelve Labors of Hercules in real life. Herc Beal knows who he's named after—a mythical hero—but he's no superhero. He's the smallest kid in his class and he doesn't see any Hydras or Nemean Lions to slay.

ShetterlyDIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Hidden Figures (young readers' edition)***

The story of how four African American women used their talents to help NASA succeed in the space program.

Nonfiction**Shevah**DIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS***Dara Palmer's Major Drama***

Dara has plans, becoming a famous movie star is on her list but first she must get the lead in the school play. When she gets no part at all she figures it must be because she doesn't have the right look.

Smith***Zach's Lie***

When Jack Osborne is befriended by his school's custodian, he begins to adjust to his family's sudden move. Forced to enter the Witness Security Program to escape the drug cartel, Jack had to become Zach at least until his father tells what he knows.

Smith, Roland 	Peak (or <i>The Edge</i>) 14-year-old Peak Marcello's passion for climbing is normal in his family, but when he is arrested for scaling tall buildings, his mom and stepdad make a deal with the judge. If he leaves the country and goes to stay with his father, he can avoid jail.
Snyder 	Orphan Island A mysterious island populated by orphans. No one knows how they get there or what happens when they grow up and are taken away.
Sonnenblick	Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie Hilarious novel about surviving high school and living through the trials of life.
Standish 	The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall When young Arthur Conan Doyle is offered a spot at Baskerville Hall, a secret school for extraordinarily gifted children, he excited to have a chance to help his family out of poverty and use his curious mind.
Standish 	Yonder A boy on the home front in World War II who must solve the mystery of the disappearance of his best friend. This is a book about heroes who arise when they are most needed.
Stone	Deep Down Popular 6th-grader Jessie Lou is deeply, madly, passionately in love with Conrad Parker Smith. Too bad she's a tomboy with only one sometimes friend, and a tendency to cut her own hair. Too bad he's the most popular boy in their small-town school.
Taylor 	The Land The son of a rich landowner and a former slave, Paul-Edward Logan is unlike any other boys. His white father has acknowledged him and raised him openly—something unusual in post-Civil War Georgia. But life for someone like him is not easy. First book in “Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry” series.
Thompson 	The Vikings: Guts & Glory An action-packed account of some of the most feared and fearless figures in European history. The Vikings wielded battle-axes and became the stuff of legends.
Thompson 	World War II: Guts & Glory Massive battles to secret spy missions, WWII heroes created the stories filled with action and treachery.
Tolkien 	The Hobbit

Nonfiction

Nonfiction

Summer 2025 Rising 7th Graders

Dwarves, goblins, trolls, dragons and wizards are all included in the adventure where Bilbo reluctantly agrees to set out to defeat Smaug and possibly find a treasure.

Classic

Velde

DIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS



Heir Apparent

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Wells

DIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS



War of the Worlds

What appeared to be a falling star was, in fact, a metallic cylinder from Mars. Six million people flee London in panic as tentacled invaders emerge and overpower the city. With their heat-ray, and black gas, is there anything that can be done to stop the Martians?

Classic

Williams-Garcia

One Crazy Summer

In the summer of 1968, after travelling to California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a poet and printer, isn't happy to see them and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

Yancey

DIGITAL
AUDIO
BOOKS



Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp

The organization dedicated to protecting the legendary sword, Excalibur is brought out by the theft of the sword. They have upgraded their technology and now Alfred is being chased by men who drive Lamborghinis and fly helicopters.

Yolen

Girl in a Cage

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England's King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display.