

# Rising 7th Grade Summer Reading – 2026

All rising 7th graders are required to read two novels over the summer: one whole-class novel and one choice novel. The options for the choice novel are found in the second section of this document.

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All rising 7th graders are required to read the following novel over the summer:

## ***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall**

Before Monday, August 17th, students should:

1. Read *The Seventh Most Important Thing* in its entirety
2. Read their choice novel in its entirety
3. Complete the activities found below

On Monday, August 17th, students should:

1. Bring their hard copy of ***both*** of their summer reading books to school
2. Bring their completed activities to school, stapled together in order of activity

## **The Seventh Most Important Thing: Seven Activities**

Directions: These activities are to be handwritten or in cursive on the front of a lined sheet of notebook paper. The activity number must be in the top right corner of each sheet of paper. Your name must be in the top left corner of each sheet of paper. Use a separate sheet of paper for each activity.

Activity #1: Make a list of seven items that are important to you. In 3-5 sentences, explain why **one** of these items is important to you.

Activity #2: Make a list of seven people you are thankful for. In 3-5 sentences, explain why you are thankful for **one** of these people.

Activity #3: Make a list of seven people you would like to meet. In 3-5 sentences, explain why you would like to meet **one** of these people.

Activity #4: Make a list of the seven most important things someone should know about you. In 3-5 sentences, explain why someone should know **one** of these things about you.

Activity #5: Make a list of seven songs that you think describe different people or events from *The Seventh Most Important Thing*. (These songs must be school appropriate). In 3-5 sentences, explain why **one** of these songs relates to the novel.

Activity #6: Talk to a parent, grandparent, or any important adult in your life, and ask them for seven pieces of advice that they would give to someone your age. Write these down and circle the one that you think is the most helpful/important.

Activity #7: Make a list of seven values that are important to you. Pick **three** of these values, and in 5-7 sentences, explain why you think these values are important.

- Examples of values: loyalty, spirituality, humility, compassion, honesty, kindness, integrity, selflessness, determination, generosity, courage, trustworthiness, resilience, attentiveness

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All rising 7th graders are also required to read one of the following novels over the summer:

***A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park**

Based on the true story of a Sudanese boy who was forced to flee his home during the Second Sudanese Civil War. The story then jumps to present day America. He works for an organization that builds wells in Sudan, and he is able to return to his home country to help others.

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis**

Four children are evacuated from a country house during World War II. They discover a portal to the magical land of Narnia through a wardrobe. In Narnia, the children battle an evil witch in an effort to restore spring, peace, and the throne to its rightful ruler.

***Posted* by John David Anderson**

This novel explores the idea of taking phones away from students at school and students using notes to communicate. Good and bad situations are revealed in not knowing who notes are from and using one student to mediate an entire middle school.

***Space Case* by Stuart Gibbs**

This novel has a slight science theme and would be a great choice for anyone interested in space, murder mysteries, and dystopian living.

***Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls**

The adventures of a young boy and his two Redbone Coonhound hunting dogs in the Ozark Mountains. Set during the Great Depression, they become renowned hunters and win many ribbons at competitions.

Students will complete an assignment with their choice book during the first two weeks of school.