Read a minimum of THREE books this summer.

- Book 1: ALL rising seventh graders must read *Trash* by Andy Mulligan. Please read this book in August so it's fresh in your mind.
- Book 2: Choose ONE book from this list.
- Book 3: Choose ONE other book based on personal preferences (not necessarily from this list).

Bring paper copies of all books to the first week of school and be prepared for an assessment on them.

Little Women **by Louisa May Alcott.** *Classic fiction. 1868.* The four March sisters experience joys and sorrows as they grow into young women in the nineteenth century.

The Crossover **by Kwame Alexander.** *Sports fiction; novel in verse. 2014.* Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives **by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda (with Liz Welch).** *Memoir in letters. 2015*. An American girl and a Zimbabwean boy exchange letters that change both of their lives forever.

Fever, 1793 **by Laurie Halse Anderson.** *Historical fiction. 2000.* In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance as she copes with the horrors of an epidemic.

Zenobia July **by Lisa Bunker.** *Realistic fiction*. *2019.* Zenobia July moves to Maine with her aunts and slowly learns to embrace the world around her instead of hiding behind a computer. Adept with coding, she must solve the mystery of who has been posting hateful messages about her online.

Hurricane Child **by Kacen Callender.** *Realistic fiction. 2018.* Twelve-year-old Caroline, self-described as "the littlest girl with the darkest skin … in [her] whole Catholic school," deals with loss, grief, and bullying in ways that reveal her strength.

Star-Crossed **by Barbara Dee.** *Realistic fiction. 2018.* Twelve-year-old Mattie wrestles with her crush on Gemma as they participate in their school production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Traveler **by L.E. DeLano.** *Science fiction. 2017.* A girl named Jessa meets a strange boy who tells her something that changes how she sees everything.

The Only Road **by Alexandra Diaz.** *Realistic fiction. 2016.* Twelve-year-old Jaime makes the treacherous and life-changing journey from his home in Guatemala to live with his older brother in the United States.

Out of My Mind **by Sharon M. Draper.** *Realistic fiction. 2010.* Considered by many to be intellectually disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Mockingbird **by Kathryn Erskine.** *Realistic fiction. 2011.* At school, ten-year-old Caitlin struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school; at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

How We Roll **by Natasha Friend.** *Realistic fiction. 2018.* Quinn and Jake, teens facing trauma and identity issues, meet and find the confidence to believe in themselves again, and maybe even love.

The Graveyard Book **by Neil Gaiman.** *Fantasy fiction. 2008.* After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

Lily and Dunkin **by Donna Gephart.** *Realistic fiction. 2016.* A dual narrative about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder.

Allies **by Alan Gratz.** *Historical Fiction. 2019.* This action-packed, multiple perspective novel follows six teenagers on "D Day," June 6, 1944.

Two Degrees **by Alan Gratz.** *Realistic fiction. 2022.* Four different kids. Three different threats. Two degrees of temperature rise. One single cause: Climate change.

***Flush* by Carl Hiaasen.** *Adventure fiction. 2005.* Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera.** *Dystopian fiction. 2024.* After Earth is destroyed, Petra awakes on a new planet to find that she is the only person who remembers Earth. Can she help the future of humanity by telling stories of the past?

***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani.** *Historical fiction. 2018.* This novel, which takes place in 1947 India during partition, is told through the letters of Nisha, a twelve-year-old Hindu girl, to her Muslim mother who died in childbirth.

***Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston.** *Nonfiction; memoir. 1973.* The true account of Jeanne Wakatsuki, who was sent at the age of seven with her family and many other Japanese-Americans to the Manzanar internment camp in California.

***The Star of Kazan* by Eva Ibbotson.** *Historical fiction. 2004.* After twelve-year-old Annika, an orphan in late-1800s Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, a woman claiming to be her mother arrives and takes her to live in a mysterious mansion.

***Mascot* by Antony John.** *Realistic fiction. 2018.* Twelve-year-old Noah struggles to come to terms with life in a wheelchair after surviving the car accident that killed his father.

***The Thing About Luck* by Cynthia Kadohata.** *Realistic fiction. 2013.* Summer knows that *kouun* means good luck in Japanese, and this year her family has had none. Just when Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan, right before harvest season, leaving Summer and her little brother, Jaz, in the care of their elderly grandparents, Obaachan and Jiichan.

***Malcolm Lives! The Official Biography of Malcolm X for Young Readers* by Ibram X. Kendi.** *Biography. 2025.* To trace Malcolm's childhood and adult years, Kendi draws on Malcolm's stirring oratory style. An abundance of never-before-published letters, notes, flyers, photos, extensive source notes, and more give young readers a front-row seat to his life.

***Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* Now that Amina's in middle school, her friend is suddenly hanging out with one of the "cool" girls and is even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Where does Amina fit?

***The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place* by E.L. Konigsburg.** *Fiction. 2004.* Margaret Rose is forced to go to Camp Talequa while her parents take a trip without her to Peru. Bullied by the other girls for being different, Margaret is rescued by her uncles and learns how to be an upstander.

***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin.** *Fantasy fiction. 2009.* A Chinese girl named Minli sets off on a quest to bring good fortune to her family by finding the "Old Man in the Moon."

***Confessions of a Closet Catholic* by Sarah Darer Littman.** *Realistic fiction. 2006.* To be more like her best friend, eleven-year-old Justine decides to give up Judaism to try being Catholic for a while.

***The Giver* by Lois Lowry.** *Science fiction. 1993.* Twelve-year-old Jonas lives in a seemingly ideal world. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver does he begin to understand the dark secrets behind his fragile community.

***Legend* by Marie Lu.** *Science fiction; dystopia. 2011.* On the flooded coast of former Los Angeles, two fifteen year-olds from wildly different sectors of the Republic learn the sinister lengths that their country will go to in order to keep its secrets.

***Million-Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica.** *Sports fiction. 2009.* When eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family feels economic strain and his best friend Abby is going blind, he gets a chance to win a million dollars by completing a single pass.

***Hurricane Season* by Nicole Melleby.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* This novel about taking risks and facing danger, about friendship and art, is more than anything else a story about love—both its limits and its incredible healing power.

***One Bird* by Kyoko Mori.** *Realistic fiction. 1996.* Just when she feels that no one cares, fifteen-year-old Megumi meets veterinarian Dr. Mizutani, who offers Megumi a part-time job in her veterinary office helping her heal sick birds.

***The Best at It* by Maulik Pancholy.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* An Indian-American boy struggles with his sexuality and mental health while finding a place for himself in seventh grade.

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Perez.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* In this classic tale of friendship, identity, and punk rock, twelve-year-old Malu learns to navigate Posega Middle School by staying true to herself.

Ninth Ward **by Jewell Parker Rhodes.** *Realistic fiction. 2012.* When Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane fast approaching New Orleans, it's up to 12-year-old Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength needed to survive the storm.

Echo **by Pam Munoz Ryan.** *Historical fiction. 2015.* Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy that, decades later, catches three contemporary children in its thread.

The Wednesday Wars **by Gary D. Schmidt.** *Historical fiction. 2007.* When all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood must stay in Mrs. Baker's classroom and read the plays of Shakespeare.

Shooting Kabul **by N. H. Senzai.** *Adventure fiction. 2010.* After escaping to the San Francisco Bay Area from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi schemes to return for his little sister who was accidentally left behind.

Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal –The World's Most Dangerous Weapon **by Steve Sheinkin.** *Nonfiction; history. 2012.* Examines the history of the atomic bomb and its impact on societies around the world.

Dry **by Neal Shusterman.** *Science fiction. 2018.* When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family.

Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team that Changed a Town **by Warren St. John.** *Nonfiction; sports. 2009.* This young readers' edition of an adult bestseller tells the story of the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh.

Treasure Island **by Robert Louis Stevenson.** *Fiction. 1883.* The classic adventure tells the tale of young Jim Hawkins, who finds a treasure map, sets out to sea on a search for the gold, and encounters pirates along the way!

The Mysterious Benedict Society **by Trenton Lee Stewart.** *Mystery fiction. 2007.* Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

Dear Martin **by Nic Stone.** *Realistic fiction. 2017.* Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs.

The Samurai's Garden **by Gail Tsukiyama.** *Historical fiction. 1992*. Set during World War II, a young Chinese painter travels to his family's vacation home in Japan. He learns how to overcome stereotypes and forges unexpected friendships that change his perspective.

Navigating Early **by Clare Vanderpool.** *Adventure fiction. 2014.* During a break from their boarding school, Jack and Early set out to hike the Appalachian Trail, searching for a black bear and meeting friends and a few enemies along the way.

Wild Bird **by Wendelin Van Draanen.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* Wren arrives at her survivalist wilderness therapy camp bitter and angry, but during her eight-week stay in the wild, she finds redemption.

The Bridge Home **by Padma Venkatraman.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Chennai, India's teeming streets.

Homecoming **by Cynthia Voigt.** *Realistic fiction. 1987.* When four siblings are abandoned by their mother in a parking lot, they have to use their ingenuity and courage to travel from Connecticut to Maryland where their grandmother lives.

The Prince and the Dressmaker **by Jen Wang.** *Graphic novel. 2018.* In this fairy tale romance that explores identity and art, cross-dressing Prince Sebastian falls in love with his Paris dressmaker, Frances.

Genesis Begins Again **by Alicia D. Williams.** *Realistic fiction. 2019.* Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as she is.

Wolf Hollow **by Lauren Wolk.** *Realistic fiction. 2016.* Annabelle recognizes a bully as soon as Betty Glengarry moves to town and makes reclusive neighbor Toby, a friend of Annabelle's, a target. Annabelle determines to put a stop to Betty.

The Epic Crush of Genie Lo **by F. C. Yee.** *Fantasy fiction. 2018.* A tough, self-disciplined Chinese-American teen deals with the supernatural derailing of her college-prep activities in this novel that draws on the folklore of the Chinese Monkey King.