

2023 Incoming 7th Grade Summer Reading

Please choose one of the following books to read this summer. Reflect on your reading by writing sticky note annotations as you read (10 minimum, from different parts of the book). See page 3 for more information on annotations. Bring your completed book & sticky notes to school at the beginning of the year. *You may read more than one book if you wish, but you only need to write annotations for one of the books. We want you to have fun reading!*

Realistic Fiction

***Falling Over Sideways* by Jordan Sonnenblick**

ISBN-13: 9780545863247

Claire's life is a joke . . . but she's not laughing. While her friends seem to be leaping forward, she's dancing in the same place. The mean girls at school are living up to their mean name, and there's a boy, Ryder, who's just as bad, if not worse. And at home, nobody's really listening to her -- if anything, they seem to be more in on the joke than she is. Then into all of this (not-very-funny-to-Claire) comedy comes something intense and tragic -- while her dad is talking to her at the kitchen table, he falls over with a medical emergency. Suddenly the joke has become very serious -- and the only way Claire, her family, and her friends are going to get through it is if they can find a way to make it funny again.

***The Brave* by James Bird**

ISBN-13: 9781250247759

Collin can't help himself—he has a unique condition that finds him counting every letter spoken to him. It's a quirk that makes him a prime target for bullies, and a continual frustration to the adults around him, including his father. When Collin was asked to leave yet another school, his dad decides to send him to live in Minnesota with the mother he's never met. She is Ojibwe, and lives on a reservation. Collin arrives in Duluth with his loyal dog, Seven, and quickly finds his mom and his new home to be warm, welcoming, and accepting of his condition. Collin's quirk is matched by that of his neighbor, Orenda, a girl who lives mostly in her treehouse and believes she is turning into a butterfly. With Orenda's help, Collin works hard to overcome his challenges. His real test comes when he must step up for his new friend and trust his new family.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

***Everlost* by Neal Shusterman**

ISBN-13: 9780689872389

IT BEGINS WITH AN ACCIDENT. Nick and Allie don't survive the crash, and now their souls are stuck halfway between life and death in a sort of limbo called Everlost. It's a magical yet dangerous place, where bands of lost souls run wild and anyone who stands in the same spot too long sinks to the center of the Earth. Frightened and determined, Nick and Allie aren't ready to rest in peace just yet. They want their lives back, and their search for a way home will take them deep into the uncharted areas of Everlost. But the longer they stay, the more they forget about their pasts. And if all memory of home is lost, they may never escape this strange, terrible world.

***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera**

ISBN: 978-1646140893

There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them Petra and her family – have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet – and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard – or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

Dystopian

***Cinder* by Marissa Meyer**

ISBN-13: 978-1250007209

Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . . Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

Historical Fiction

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko**

ISBN-13: 978-0142403709

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko is a Newbery Award winning novel that made its debut in 2004. In this story, a family works to settle into life on the island of Alcatraz. The son, Moose, attempts to traverse the difficulties of adolescence while working hard to help his sister Natalie, who is autistic.

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

ISBN-13: 978-0545880831

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .

ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

Creating Annotations

Annotations: A Close Reading Strategy

Annotations are notes a reader takes while actively reading. Keep post-it notes nearby as you read, and after you write an annotation, adhere it to the exact page to which the note is referring.

Ideas for Annotations with sample language in parenthesis:

- Connections (“This reminds me of the book _____ because _____.”)
- Reactions (“Woah! I can’t believe _____ just happened! I would be so upset!”)
- Questions you may have (“Wait. Why is she doing that?! That doesn’t make sense.”)
- Observations (“I notice the main character stutters more when he gets nervous.”)
- Identification of plot analysis - exposition, characterization, conflict development, climax, etc. (“The main character is really changing. He would have *never* done anything like that at the beginning of the story!”)
- Predictions (“I bet _____ is going to happen next. I just know it!”)

You must write at least 10 sticky note annotations (but you can write more), and they must be from different parts of the book.