

7th Graders' Suggested Summer Reading List



Avi. *The True Confession of Charlotte Doyle.*

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle is booked on the Seahawk for a trans-Atlantic voyage, to join her family in America. During the dramatic two-month voyage she learns more than she dreamed possible about seafaring, about command, and about herself.

Babbit, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting.* This fantasy is about an encounter between a young girl and a family that never ages. A confrontation with a man who plans to market the spring water that keeps them young results in an accident, difficulty with the law, and an exciting rescue.

Bauer, Joan. *Best Foot Forward.* Putnam, 2005. This book continues the story from *Rules of the Road*, about Jenna, Gladstone Shoes salesman extraordinaire, and her many personal and business challenges, who is now faced with unscrupulous business partners.

Bauer, Joan. *Squashed.* Delacorte Press, 1992. Ellie Morgan was just an average teen. She just wanted to lose weight, better her relationship with her father, get a boyfriend, and grow the world's biggest pumpkin! However, reaching her goals may be harder than she realizes. With barriers at every corner, Ellie's future doesn't look promising, but the lessons she'll learn along the way might just be more important.

Bradbury, Ray. *A Medicine for Melancholy.* 1960. This collection contains works of science fiction, fantasy, and realism.

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451.* 1953. A futuristic story in which the written word is forbidden. Firemen are in charge of burning books, not putting out fires.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Code Talker.* Dial, 2005. At the age of six, Ned Begay must leave his Navajo home to learn English and later become a U.S. Marine during World War II.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game.* First published 1984. Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer simulated war games; in fact, he is commanding the last great fleet of Earth. Series Hugo Award; Nebula Award

Cooney, Caroline. *Code Orange.* Delacorte, 2005. While conducting research for a school paper on smallpox, Mitty finds an envelope containing 100-year-old smallpox scabs and becomes the target of terrorists intent on starting a modern-day plague.

Cooney, Caroline. *Code Orange.* Delacorte, 2005. Mitty Blake loved the city, and even after 9/11, he always felt safe. Mitty was a carefree guy—he didn't worry about terrorists or blackouts or grades or anything, which is why he was late getting started on his Advanced Bio report. So he considers it good luck when he finds some old medical books in his family's weekend house. Mitty discovers an old envelope in one of the books and the report is no longer about the grade—it is about life and death. His own.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *Sign of the Four.* First published 1890. Sherlock Holmes is asked by a Miss Morstan to investigate the strange disappearance of her father ten years prior, and learn why she has been receiving a beautiful and very large pearl for her birthday every year since!

Farmer, Nancy. *House of the Scorpion.* Atheneum, 2002. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Fleischman, Paul. *Whirligig.* Holt, 1998. Brian travels to the four corners of the US to build a whirligig in memory of a girl he killed while he was driving drunk.

Hamilton, Virginia. *Justice and her Brothers.* 1978. Justice has two brothers who are twins: Thomas is mean and Levi is kind. One summer they discover they have mysterious powers that allow them to mindjump a million years into the future. What they find is both frightening and fascinating.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear.* 1968. Thomas has mixed feelings about the huge old house that his father has bought. The old house seems to hold a secret, and frightening things begin to happen. Danger and excitement build as Thomas tries to unravel the mystery.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The Planet of Junior Brown.* 1971. Two unlikely friends in New York City play hooky from eighth grade for an entire semester. Junior Brown is a 300-pound neurotic musical prodigy who is befriended by Buddy, a tough, homeless, street kid. Newbery Book

Jacques, Brian. *Triss.* Philomel, 2002. Triss, Shogg, and Welfo escape from slavery at Riftgard and are pursued across the sea toward Redwall by Princess Kurdah, Prince Bladd, and a band of freebooters who seek the rumored treasure of Brockhall.

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Jacques, Brian. *Taggerung*. 2001. Sawney watched as the Seer painted the clan sign on the sleeping infant's face. A black stripe flanked by red dots, with a small added lightning flash of blue on his left cheek, to denote that he was no ordinary creature. The little one slept through it all. Sawney lay down beside him, sharing the cloak. Grissoul had never seen the ferret Chieftain show tenderness toward any living being, so she was astonished when Sawney spoke gently to the babe. "Zann Juskarath Taggerung. My son... the Taggerung!"

Lasky, Kathryn. *Blood Secret*. HarperCollins, 2004. The minute she had opened the trunk, she knew there wasn't anything like hope in it. Just awful musty things, but each one with a kind of terrible dark halo around it. She picked up that piece of old lace. She saw that stain -- pale, brownish in color. She knew it was blood. Somebody's blood. There was violence in that trunk, and dark secrets, and she did not want to know them.

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. A science-fiction story about a 12-year-old Jonas, who must choose between a "perfect" world devoid of strife or conflict and one filled with the joys and pains of a life of choices. Jonas begins to realize that his world has many flaws and must decide where true integrity and loyalty lie.

Nye, Naomi Shabib. *You & Yours*. BOA Editions, 2005. Nye's poetry is firmly grounded in two geographical locations: small moments in her Texas home, and many larger themes in the Middle East, where part of her family hails from.

O. Henry. *One Thousand Dollars*. A spendthrift nephew inherits a thousand dollars from a rich uncle. The nephew must account for how he spends every cent of his inheritance. Will he act generously?

O. Henry. *The Gift of the Magi*. The tale of a poor young husband and wife, each who sacrifices a treasured possession in order to buy a Christmas gift for the other.

O. Henry. *The Ransom of the Red Chief*. Two dim-witted hoodlums carry out a kidnapping, planning to collect a large ransom from their victim's father. Hilariously, the boy they kidnap is so troublesome the two end up paying the father to take him back.

Paulsen, Gary. *The Rifle*. Bantam, 1995. A priceless, handcrafted rifle, fired throughout the American Revolution, is passed down through the years until it fires on a fateful Christmas Eve in 1994.

Rauls, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*. The story of a close relationship between a boy and his hunting dogs on a poor farm in the Ozarks. The boy saves money to buy the dogs and is heartbroken when they die.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*. First published 1937. Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Hobbit Bilbo Baggins enters the life of his cousin and heir Frodo Baggins. During Bilbo's adventures into Middle Earth with the Grey Wizard Gandalf, he acquires a magical ring from a creature named Gollum. It is learned upon Bilbo's "holiday" from his home, Bag End, that the magic ring, which he leaves behind as an inheritance to his cousin Frodo, is more than just magic.

Verne, Jules. *Around the World in Eighty Days*. *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne is a novel about the adventures of Phileas Fogg and his servant Passerpartout. One day while Phileas Fogg is with some friends, he reads in a newspaper that it is possible to travel around the world in eighty days. No one believes this is true, except Phileas. Then Phileas bets them that he could make the journey in eighty or under days, and then leaves along with his servant immediately.

Verne, Jules. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. First published 1869. This nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and an undersea world anticipated many of the scientific achievements of the twentieth century.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Homecoming*. Thirteen-year-old Dicey is left to care for her two brothers and sister when the Tillerman children are abandoned by their mother in a parking lot. Determined to keep her siblings together, Dicey leads them on a hike across Connecticut to Aunt Cilla's, where the fight for her family begins.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Hush*. Penguin, 2002. Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life radically changed when her family must enter the witness protection program.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Miracle's Boys*. Penguin Putnam Books, 2000. Growing up in New York City isn't easy for 12-year-old Lafayette and his older brothers. Especially because they are on their own, after the death of their parents. Oldest brother Ty'ree tries to hold things together, working to earn enough money to support them all, but it's a struggle. And it doesn't help matters that Lafayette's brother Charlie acts totally different (often very mean and angry) since he's come back from the juvenile correctional facility. The events of one dramatic weekend will determine whether the boys will be able to stick it out on their own after all.