

7th GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS 2025

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Assignment Overview & Directions

READING

You will read **two books** (*preferably 300+ pages each*):

- One **fiction** book **and**
- One **nonfiction** book (such as an autobiography, memoir or biography)
*You could replace the nonfiction book with a historical fiction book, like Code Talkers, that is based on real events

ASSIGNMENT

You will do **two book reports** and a **creative project**:

1. **You will do two Digital Book Reports** (Google slideshow) **—One on each book.** (You will present these to the class).

—and—

2. **For one of the books, you will do a fun, creative project.** (You will also present this to the class).

You will present the slideshow and project when you return from the summer. This will be during the first week (or two) of school. *The first people who go voluntarily usually are graded easier.*

Here is a schedule of dates for when you should have things completed and turned in to Google Classroom (simply attach them, don't click "submit" or "turn in"):

June 4-8 — Choose books (order books so they arrive by June 8)
 June 8 (Sunday)— Begin reading your book (by this date or sooner) *–3 weeks to read*
 June 28 (Saturday) —Finish Book 1
 June 29 (Sunday) —Start Slideshow for Book 1 *–one week to complete*
 July 5 (Saturday)— Finish Slideshow for Book 1
 July 6 (Sunday) — Start Book 2 *–3 weeks to read*
 July 26 (Saturday) — Finish Book 2
 July 27 (Sunday)— Create a Google Slideshow for book 2 *–one week to complete*
 August 2 (Saturday) — Finish Slideshow 2
 by Aug 3 (Sunday) — Begin Project *–3 weeks to complete*
 by Aug 24 — Finish project
 By Aug 25 – Attach slideshow and your project (or a photo of your project) to Google Classroom. **DON'T click the Submit button** for then you can't present it; just attach it.
 (If your project is a game or movie, make sure it is in a format you can share with the class during a presentation. Do not make a project on a computer that you can't bring to school.)

Adjust this schedule to fit your reading speed. Just be sure your project and book reports are completed and you are ready to present on August 25.

An alternate schedule will have you do your project before starting Book #2:

June 4-8 — Choose books (order books so they arrive by June 8)

June 8 (Sunday)— Begin reading your book (by this date or sooner) *-3 weeks to read*

June 28 (Saturday) —Finish Book 1

June 29 (Sunday) —Start Slideshow for Book 1 *-one week to complete*

July 5 (Saturday)— Finish Slideshow for Book 1

July 6 (Sunday) — Begin Project *-3 weeks to complete*

July 26 (Saturday) — Finish Project

July 27 (Sunday) — Start Book 2 *-3 weeks to read*

Aug 16 (Saturday) — Finish Book 2

Aug 17 (Sunday) — Start Slideshow for book 2 *-one week to complete*

Aug 24 — Finish Slideshow #2

By Aug 25 – Attach the slideshow and your project to Google Classroom

CREATIVE PROJECTS

Choose one of the books you read to create a project.

You will present your finished project to the class AND attach your completed project to Google Classroom.

(See the following page for project ideas)

Presenting Your Projects:

Remember that you will be presenting these projects to the class.

- *If you write a story, you will have to read the story out loud to us (and project it on the screen).*
- *If you create illustrations or a cartoon, you will need to put photos of the artwork on a slideshow and show it to the class that way. This way we can all see it. (Also, bring the originals in as well).*
- *If you make a video, you will play it on the big screen in our room. This means that you must do your project on a computer that you can bring to school and that can be linked to our screen.*
- *Let me know if you have questions about how you might present your project.*
- *One thing to also remember is that you will need to explain how this project relates to or was inspired by the book you read.*

Write a short paragraph explanation about the project

1. Tell us the title of the book this project was inspired by.
2. Explain how the project relates to (or was inspired by) the book you read.
3. Explain why you chose to do this particular type of project.
4. Attach this short paragraph to the beginning of your project's first page (or you can attach it as a separate document on Google Classroom if your project is art/video).
5. Make sure to present this preface to the class before presenting your project so we understand its relevance.

How to turn in the work:

- All written work must be turned in via Google Classroom.
- Films/Movies can be airdropped or emailed to me
- Artwork needs to be photographed and placed on a Google Slide to present to the class (this way we can actually see them) and then the physical artwork should be brought in and turned in to me so I can display it on the wall.

Project Options & Ideas

1. Creative Writing

Write a 5+ page story inspired by the book you just read

1. First, create a **cover page** with:

Title of your story
by Your name
inspired by the novel Title of Book
by Author's name
2. Then, include a page with a short paragraph that briefly explains how this story was inspired by the book you read.
3. Finally, include your story.
4. You might want to add illustrations to your story (optional) or an illustrated cover page (optional).

** Remember, you will be projecting your story on the big screen and reading it to us out loud in class.*

Types of writing ideas for your creative story:

- Create an additional chapter or a short sequel for the novel. You will continue writing the novel as though you were the author writing an additional chapter or as though you were starting the second book in a series. The story would be a continuation of where the novel left off.
- Write a spin-off of this story. Using the same world that the author of the novel created, you will write your own story. You will have different characters and different events, but the world will be the same —or—You will use the same characters from the novel you read but these characters go through something different and new. Perhaps you will even introduce new characters to this story.
- Rewrite a portion of the story from the voice or perspective of a different character. You can choose a particular scene in the story to rewrite.
- Write a prequel to the story.
- Completely rewrite the ending! Rewrite the last chapter(s) of the story. Make the ending completely different from the original. (Make sure to explain how and why you have changed this ending).

Turn the nonfiction book into a 5+ page historical fiction story:

- Bring to life a particular event or real person that you read about. Choose the setting, historical figures, time period, problems, and themes found in the nonfiction book you read to create a fictional book that incorporates elements mainly found in fiction books such as the thoughts, motivations and emotional responses of the characters, detailed imagery that evokes the senses, dialogue, non-historical characters that interact with historical ones (like you could place yourself in this story), etc.,

2. Interview

Interview the Author of the book or One of the Characters in the book:

You will need to **write out the interview** and then **film yourself acting this out**. You can have yourself play both parts (but this will take quite a bit of editing) or enlist a friend to play the other part. You will be presenting the recording to the class as your presentation. Don't forget props and costumes.

- During the interview, you will introduce the author, Genre and Title of the book and a wee bit of background information on the person/character being interviewed as though you were writing this interview for a magazine or talk show.
- Then you will ask them questions about the important incidents in the book and/or about writing the book, which your character or author will then answer.
- Create a 2-page interview (or longer) and then actually record the interview. If you play both roles, please get into character by changing your costume and voice so we can distinguish between the interviewer and the interviewee.

Example:

Interviewer (addressing audience):

"It is June 21, 1970, and I am sitting here today with Sgt. Bryant, author of the critically acclaimed war memoir *To Save One's Soul*. He has recently returned from his call of duty in Vietnam and graciously agreed to an interview in spite of extensive injuries he is still recovering from.

Interviewer (addressing guest): Sgt. Bryant, I am thrilled you could make it here today, especially considering that you have just recently recovered from surgery as a result of your encounter with an exploding grenade upon which you threw yourself in order to save your fellow soldiers. It is a miracle you are alive to tell your tale. How has your recuperation been?

Sgt. Bryant: Yes, thank you Nick for asking and for having me here today. I am doing well, but the recovery is slow and it has been hard for me to overcome the changes it has caused. As you know, I lost both legs and an arm. At first I was extremely depressed and wasn't certain if I would ever feel normal again.

Interviewer: But now you seem to be very upbeat. What has helped you with recovering your sense of self?

Sgt. Bryant: I am glad you asked me this question because many of our young men have come back with similar injuries and are too trying to cope with the same and I hope my story can be an inspiration for others. I was able to find purpose in life through...

Interviewer: On page 25 of your memoir, you mention ...how did this ...

3. Graphic Novel or Illustrated Summary

Only choose to do these artistic options if you plan to spend time on the artwork and produce quality pictures. I will be grading you on the quality of the artwork and the effort you put into it. I also expect this to be colored or shaded well if you choose to use greyscale. You may use paper or do this digitally. Whatever format you choose, make sure you are able to present these via a slideshow presentation or something similar that we can project from the computer to the screen in the classroom. If you do this by hand, you will need to take photos of the finished product and upload them to a slide presentation.

Turn the entire book or a chapter of the book into a graphic novel.

1. Create an illustrated cover page with the title of the book and author. Followed by "Adapted into a graphic novel by Your Name). Make sure you add an illustration.
2. Turn the entire book or an entire chapter into a graphic novel:
 - a. If you do the **entire book**, then make sure to also **include a paragraph review on the book** (explaining what you thought of the book and why). Add this paragraph to the end of the graphic novel you created.
 - b. If you do only a **chapter**, then **add a summary and review of the book**. Briefly summarize the part of the story before the chapter you turned into a graphic novel, and then summarize the part after it. Place the illustrations between your two summaries. Then you will also have to add a review at the end.
 - c. Your illustrations should take up at least 6 pages and a total of at least 36 different boxes.

Create an Illustrated Book Review and Summary

1. Create an illustrated cover page:
 - Title it: *An Illustrated Book Review and Summary of Title of the book by Author's Name.*
 - Then add an Illustration
 - Followed by *Written & Illustrated by Your Name*
2. For the project, **summarize each chapter** (a short paragraph each) **and then add an illustration to each summary** (or to every other summary depending on how many chapters there are).
3. You should have at least 10 detailed illustrations for this project (perhaps one every chapter or two).
4. Make sure to title the illustrations and explain briefly what each is depicting.

4. Movie/Play

Turn the entire novel or a chapter from the novel into a play/movie

Or, turn a story of your creation that is inspired by the book into a movie or play.

1. Make a script (turn the script into Google Classroom)
2. Then act it out in class OR make it into a movie that you show to the class.
 - You might be the only actor or you may have friends, family members or pets be actors in your film
 - You might use puppets instead
 - You might create a stop motion or animated video rather than live action (the choice is yours).
3. Turn in both the script and the video to Google Classroom (or perform the script live in class).

5. Animation or Stop Motion Video

Summarize the book using an animation program. You will create an animated cartoon or use stop motion to create a video that showcases the plot and main events of the book or that showcases an interesting chapter in the book.

You should have 10+ scenes (no limit) showing these things:

1. Title of the Book written by Author's name & Animated by Your Name
2. Character & scene introduction
3. Inciting incident (show the thing that starts the story moving towards the climax. This is where the problem begins)
4. Rising Action 1 —This is one of the major events that leads to the Climax
5. Rising Action 2 —This is one of the major events that leads to the Climax
6. Rising Action 3 —This is one of the major events that leads to the Climax
7. Rising Action 4 —This is one of the major events that leads to the Climax
8. Climax —This is where the problem comes to light or gets worse. This is the exciting/most tense part of the story.
9. Falling Action — This shows how the problem gets resolved
10. Conclusion/Resolution —The ending

5. Character's Diary

Create a diary written by a character in your book

- This diary should reveal things that were not mentioned or not made clear in the original version. Do NOT simply repeat what was said in the book and then just change everything from third person to first person. The purpose of this diary is to reveal feelings, motives, and events that were not made apparent in the original version.
- If the book is written in the first person (narrated by the main character), you must write the diary from a different character's perspective.
- Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.
- The entries in your diary should stretch out over the entire period of time that the novel covers -- from the beginning of the novel to the end.
- Write dates or headings for the entries.
- Organize the diary – make sure it is in proper order.
- Create a cover for your diary (enjoy illustrating this cover too if you choose)
 - On the cover page include 1) A Title of your making, 2) *under the title*: "written by (your name)," 3) *under that*: "inspired by (the Title of the Book) by (Author's Name)."
- Include a character profile sheet with information on this character and who they are in the book.
- After the character profile, tell us that you are taking the experiences of this character and are putting them in diary format and then explain why you have chosen this particular character to do this for.

6. Game

Create a game or fun activity based on this book that we must play (NO Kahoots or Kahoot-like games).

This should be a game that you come up with yourself. You will have to teach us the game and then have us play it. Some students have created games with actual game pieces and cards, others have created computer games that we could play, it is up to you. One student had us “choose our own ending” type of game. Some students do code breaking activities or CIA sort of forensic science activities. It all depends on the book.

- Before we play the game, make sure to explain which book this game relates to and then explain how your activity relates to the book.

7. Art Project.

You might create your own art project

Acceptable Medium: Acrylic Paint, Oil Paint, Pastels, Colored Pencils, Graphite, Charcoal, Digital Art

- Do NOT turn in collages or AI-generated work. All work must be done by you. You may use AI to give you ideas, but the execution must be done by you and by hand.
- You are allowed to use digital drawing programs like Procreate to create your drawings or animations, but these must be done by your own hand (no cutting and pasting except reference photos that you use to help you draw).

When presenting your art: Tell us your process (how you created the artwork, the steps you took, and how much time you spent on it) and why you chose the particular medium to work with. Also, don't forget to tell us the title of the book you read and how the art project relates to this book.

Have the class do an art project (as an option): Some students choose to have the class try a similar art project. They might have us draw or paint something related to the story. If you do this, make sure to bring in your finished example and make sure to explain the directions and expectations clearly.

Make sure to photograph your art and place the photos on a Google Slide. Present the Google Slide to the class along with the originals.

DIGITAL BOOK REPORT

Directions & Criteria

Use Google Slides

For each book Create 9+ slides (not including cover slide)

Each slide must have a picture on it. Each slide must have at least one well-positioned photo or artwork that is relevant to the information on the slide. (Sometimes, Gifs, video clips, memes, and clip art can also work, but should always be relevant). Make sure the picture is large and clear enough to see when projected. More than one picture is good as well. The more visually interesting the slide, the better

- Font Should be large (20-24 is a good size)
- Bullet points are better than paragraphs. No more than 5 sentences or 5 bullet points per slide.
- Your written information can be brief and to the point.
- Avoid writing paragraphs and long sentences! —I suggest using bullet points and not paragraphs except for the synopsis. You may use multiple slides for one paragraph. It is okay to break the paragraph up this way. It will be much better for us as we won't be able to see all the information on the projection if the font is too small. I rather you use multiple slides so that you can add more visuals and keep the visuals large rather than try to cram it all on one slide.
- Make sure you have a Title Slide: A Slide with the Title of the Book and Author (plus a picture or illustration)
- You may break your slides into multiple slides. You don't need to try to shove everything about one topic onto one slide, you may use multiple slides for it. For example, if you want to explain the Historical Context in three slides instead of one, that is acceptable too.
- You may do more than 9 slides
- Make sure that EVERY slide has a picture. Try to fill up at least half of each slide with a picture or visual of some sort.
- Make your slides as visually appealing as possible. Add cool animations and effects, if you know how.
 - Colorful backgrounds (that don't interfere with our ability to read the words on the slide) are good.
 - Design elements, special layout, and other visual details are fun too.
 - Add background, animations, pictures, etc., to each slide

See the following pages for formatting and content ideas:

Format & Templates for Book Report Slideshow

Remember that you don't have to follow this format exactly. You may choose to create other slides that you think feature the story better (just make sure it is 10+ slides long).

If you want some guidance, here is an Optional Format you can follow:

Fiction Books

1. **Title Page:**
 - Title of the Book
 - Author's name
 - Genre (*Science Fiction, Fantasy, Dystopian Fantasy, Memoir, etc.*)
 - Your Name
 - Add a picture or visual of some sort

2. **Author and/or Information on this book:**
 - **Author:** Information about this author. (Who they are, when and where they were born, types of books they write, what they might be famous for or known for, things that have influenced them, Any awards or best-selling novels, and any background information about them that might be interesting to the audience).
 - **Info on this book** (optional): This is where you tell us any background information we should know about. Things such as the history of the book, any controversy surrounding this book, or any accolades it has received would be interesting. For instance, is it a banned book? Has it won any awards? Is it a bestseller? etc.) If it was banned or controversial, explain why and what you think about this.

3. **Setting:** Explain where and when this story takes place.
 - If it is a fantasy or science fiction story, describe the world in which this story takes place and the unique/interesting things about this fantastical world. You might need more than one slide to really explain and describe all the cool aspects of this fantasy or sci-fi world.
 - If it is a historical fiction novel, you would want to explain the time period in which this takes place. Make sure to include any historical context we should know (meaning describe the things that are going on in this time period that have an effect on the main character and events in the book). **You might want additional slides that go into more detail about the Historical Context of the book.**
 - **You might also need additional slides that explain various other settings in the book or important landmarks where key events take place.**

4. **Synopsis:** A short summary of the plot. Tell us who and what this story is about

5. **Conflict/Theme:** Explain the major issues, problems or themes in this book? All stories have conflict. Think about what the main problem of this book is and/or the major themes in this book. Themes might include resilience, self-acceptance, perseverance, family, love, growth, good overcoming evil, etc.,

6. **Main Character(s):** Describe this character, their personality, and their situation. Provide your impression or opinion on this character (ie., were they well developed, interesting likable, round/flat, static/dynamic, etc.,)

Optional: important things we should know about them

- **Other Important Characters or figures we should know about:** If there are a number of important characters, you might want to introduce them and give them each their own slide.,

- 7. Anything that is interesting about the book, the characters, the setting, or anything else the reader should know or might want to know.** Anything that makes this story unique or makes the world the author has created unique. *For example, in Keeper of the Lost Cities, the characters all have certain powers. You could devote a number of slides explaining the special powers of the characters. Other important or interesting things would be that the main character was a genetically engineered elf who has brown eyes when all other elves have blue eyes, or that she was raised by adopted parents in the human world and had no idea she was an elf, or that when an elf dies their DNA is mixed in with a seed, which turns into a tree that represents their unique features and qualities. These are all curious things that make this world and this story unique. The audience might be intrigued.*
- 8. Writing Style:** Quote a short paragraph (like 5-10 sentences) that captures the writing style and voice of the author. Describe this style (*simple, formal, fast past, descriptive, full of imagery, full of literary devices like metaphors, easy, hard, sophisticated vocabulary, wordy, confusing, slow, boring, show-not-tell, too much "telling" and not enough "showing" etc.*) and the literary techniques the author uses like dialogue, narration or descriptive language to build characterization and move the story along. **Explain what you thought about the writing style. What was your opinion?**
- 9.** Things you **enjoyed** about the book, and/or Things that **shocked/surprised** you, and/or Things that you **learned**, and/or Things that **inspired** you.
- 10. Review:** Review the boo.: What was your response to the book or your overall impression? How many stars or points would you give it, etc., & **Recommendation:** Would you recommend this book to your classmates? Why or why not? You might even recommend other books similar to this one or other books that this author has written.

You are welcome to add additional slides if you have more to discuss

REMEMBER: Make sure that EVERY slide has a picture or at least one visual on them.

Try to fill up at least half of each slide with a picture or visual of some sort. Colorful backgrounds (that don't interfere with our ability to read the words on the slide) are good. Design elements, special layout, and other visual details are fun too. Try to make the slides as visually appealing as possible. Add background, animations, pictures, etc., to each slide

Historical fiction Books

1. **Title Page:**
 - Title of the Book
 - Author's name
 - Genre (*Science Fiction, Fantasy, Dystopian Fantasy, Memoir, etc.*)
 - Your Name
 - Add a picture or visual of some sort
2. **Author:** Information about this author, awards
3. **Synopsis:** Who and/or What is this book about?
4. **Setting:** When and where does it take place?
5. **Historical Context:** Background Information or anything else we should know about the time period this book takes place. Any important history we should know to understand the setting, environment, plot, characters and the problems they face.
6. **Synopsis:** What this story is about and in what
7. In what way is this both historical yet also fictional?
8. **Main Character:** Important Things we should know about the main character or the person this book is about. Provide your impression or opinion on this character (ie., were they well developed, interesting likable, round/flat, static/dynamic, etc.)
9. Things you **enjoyed** about the book (including writing style), Things that **shocked/surprised** you, Things that you **learned**, or Things that **inspired** you.
10. **Things you learned** (likely information about real historical events and people) **–and/or– explain how this book is both historical yet also fictional. Explain the things that are real and the things that are made up.**
11. **Review:** Review the book.: What was your response to the book or your overall impression? How many stars or points would you give it, etc., & **Recommendation:** Would you recommend this book to your classmates? Why or why not? You might even recommend other books similar to this one or other books that this author has written.

You are welcome to add additional slides if you have more to discuss

REMEMBER: Make sure that EVERY slide has a picture or at least one visual on them.

Try to fill up at least half of each slide with a picture or visual of some sort. Colorful backgrounds (that don't interfere with our ability to read the words on the slide) are good. Design elements, special layout, and other visual details are fun too. Try to make the slides as visually appealing as possible. Add background, animations, pictures, etc., to each slide

Autobiographies/ Biographies/ Memoirs

1. **Title Page:**
 - Title of the Book
 - Author's name
 - Genre (*Science Fiction, Fantasy, Dystopian Fantasy, Memoir, etc.*)
 - Your Name
 - Add a picture or visual of some sort

2. **Author:** Tell us who this book is about and what makes this person important, special or interesting.

3. **Setting:** Where does this story take place (Area on the globe, Country, State, City). In what time period does this person live? What is their environment like?

4. **Historical Context:** Create a slide that provides more details about the period of time (and environment) in which this story takes place. Explain how the author's environment, situation or condition affects them. This would be something that actually affects the author in some way. Explain the effect it had on them or how the environment influenced the story. (This might be war, famine, social unrest, racism, oppression, etc.)

5. **Synopsis:** Summarize what happens in this book and what this person goes through.

6. **Perseverance vs. Conflict:** What type of problems or conflicts did this author have to face/overcome and how did they deal with these problems and/or overcome the

Slides 2-6 might be blended or reorganized to avoid redundancy. It doesn't matter if you change things around or combine things as long as you have at least 5 slides on this information and that your slides include information on the author, their world, the time period, the problems they faced, and the way they overcome those problems. We need Don't be repetitive. If you already said it earlier, don't say it again.

7. **Additional Info:** You can write anything here, but it might be about things you **enjoyed** about the book (including writing style), Things you might change. Things that **shocked/surprised** you, Things that you **learned**, or Things that **inspired** you.

8. **Takeaway:** Tell us what you learned from their story, or tell us what the author hopes the reader will learn from their story, or

9. **Inspiration or Impression of Author:** Explain your opinion on this person, or explain how you were inspired by this person, or detail your impression of this person that this book was written about.

10. **Review:** Review the book.: What was your response to the book or your overall impression? How many stars or points would you give it, etc., & **Recommendation:** Would you recommend this book to your classmates? Why or why not? You might even recommend other books similar to this one or other books that this author has written.

REMEMBER: Make sure that EVERY slide has a picture or at least one visual on them.

SUGGESTED BOOKS

(These books are not required. You may do a different book that is not on this list)

Choose 2 books (1 Nonfiction & 1 Fiction)

Some of these books I have in the classroom library and you may borrow them over the summer.

You may read a book that is not on this list,

It must be at an appropriate reading level (and I prefer books more than 250 pages long).

Please ask me for approval if you are unsure.

Recommended NONFICTION Books

(Those in bold type come highly recommended by past students)

- ***I am Malala*** —Malala Yousafzai (highly recommended, though I am deliberating on adding this to our class reading list cause it is a favorite of so many)
- (*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*) –We will likely do this in school together so if you do this in the summer, I will make you read another book about the Holocaust during school) —Anne Frank
- ***Becoming Kareem: Growing up on and Off the Court***—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- ***The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard (Young Reader Edition*** —geared towards middle school & Upper Elementary students) –Tim Howard
- or-
- *The Keeper: A life of Saving Goals and Achieving Them* (the same book as the above but a bit longer and geared to those with a little higher reading and maturity level) —Tim Howard
- ***The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives***—Dashka Slater
- ***A Long Way Gone*** —Ishmael Beah (The story of a child soldier)
- ***Red Scarf Girl*** —Ji-Li Jiang
- ***Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*** —Adeline Yen Mah
- ***Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen*** — Jazz Jennings
- ***I Will Always Write Back***— Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka

- *Glimmer of Hope: How Tragedy Sparked a Movement* — The founders of March for Our Lives (Teen led movement against gun violence)
- *Claudette Colvin Twice Toward Justice* —Phillip M. Hoose (Civil Rights Movement)
- *We Are Displaced* —Malala Yousafzai
- *Just Mercy* (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice—Bryan Stevenson (Racial Biases in the Criminal Justice System)
- *I've Lived a Thousand Years* — Livia Bitton Jackson (Holocaust Memoir)
- *Weedflower*—Cynthia Kadohata (Japanese Internment)
- **Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg & the Secret History of the Vietnam War**—Steve Sheinkin
- *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* —Phillip Hoose
- *We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler* —Russell Freedman
- **The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny and the Fight for Civil Rights**—Steve Sheinkin
- **Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team**—Steve Sheinkin
- **The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery**—Steve Sheinkin
- **Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Deadliest Weapon**—Steve Sheinkin
- *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith*—Deborah Helligman
- **Night**—*Eli Weisel* (best for a mature student as this is a memoir about the Holocaust)
- **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass**—Frederick Douglas (for an advanced reader)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Historical Fiction

- **Resistance** — Jennifer A. Nielsen (historical fiction)
- **Code Talker**—Joseph Bruchac (historical fiction)
- **The Seeds of America Trilogy: Chains; Forge; Ashes** —Laurie Halse Anderson
- Books by **Alan Gratz** books (*Refugee, Prisoner B-3087, Grenade, Samurai Sword Shop. Ground Zero, Code of Honor, etc.*)
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/alan-gratz.html>
- *Once* — Moritz Gleitzman (historical fiction)
- *Jefferson's Sons: A Founding Father's Secret Children*—Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Johnny Tremain* —Esther Forbes

- *The Hired Girl* —Laura Amy Schlitz (historical fiction)
- ***A Night Divided*** — Jennifer A. Nielsen (historical fiction)
- *Shooting Kabul* — N.H. Senzai
- *Under the Persimmon Tree* —Suzanne Fisher Staple
- *Words in the Dust* — Trent Reedy

Use these links to help you find books that take place in historical settings:

<https://bookriot.com/historical-fiction-books-for-middle-school-readers/>

<https://readingmiddlegrade.com/middle-grade-historical-fiction-books/>

FICTION BOOKS

(The ones in bold have been class favorites)

Mystery —Adventure—Intrigue—Espionage

- ***The Mysterious Benedict Society***
- ***The Wig in the Window*** —Kristen Kittscher
- ***Spy School Series*** — Stuart Gibbs
- ***Charlie Thorne*** —Stuart Gibbs
- ***One of Us is Lying*** —Karen McManus
- *Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*—A Flavia de Luce Mystery —Alan Bradley
- *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*—Chris Grabenstein (middle school)

Fantasy

- ***Scythe*** — Neal Shusterman (fantasy)
- ***Eragon*** —Christopher Paolini (fantasy)
- ***Keeper of the Lost City*** —Shannon Messenger (fantasy)
- ***Cinder (or other books in the Lunar Chronicles series)*** — Marissa Meyer (fantasy/SciFi)
- ***Ember in the Ashes*** (fantasy)
- ***Children of Blood and Bone*** — Toni Adeyemi (fantasy)
- ***The Red Queen*** —Victoria Aveyard (fantasy)
- ***Ink Iron and Glass*** — Gwendolyn Clare (fantasy)
- ***A Wrinkle in Time*** —Madeleine L'Engle (fantasy)
- ***Harry Potter*** — JK Rowling (fantasy/middle school)
- ***Shadow & Bone*** —Leigh Bardugo (fantasy)
- ***The Princess Bride*** — William Goldman (humor/fantasy)
- *House of Salt and Sorrow* —Erin A. Craig
- ***House of Roots and Ruin*** —Erin A. Craig
- *Unwants* —Lisa McMann (fantasy/middle school)
- *Graceling* —Kristin Cashne (fantasy/middle school)
- *The Golden Compass* —Philip Pullman (fantasy/middle school)
- *The Great Hunt (Wheel of Time book 1)*—Robert Jordan (Fantasy)
- *Ages of Oz: A Fiery Friendship*— Gabriel Gale (Fantasy)
- *Dragonsong* —Anne McCaffrey (fantasy)
- *Summer and Bird* —Katherine Catmull (fantasy)

- *Jasmine Throne* —Tasha Suri
- *City of Bones* —Cassandra Clare
- *Wizard of Earthsea* —Ursula Le Guin (fantasy)
- *The Princess Academy* —Shannon Hale
- *Rick Riordan books*

I have a number of other fantasy books in my library students can borrow

Dystopian Fiction

- *Divergent* —Veronica Roth (dystopian)
- *Matched* — Ally Condie (dystopian)
- *The Hunger Games* —Suzanne Collins (dystopian)
- *The Red Queen* — (fantasy+dystopian)
- *The Maze Runner* —Debora Bogart (dystopian —Violence Alert)
- *Legend* —Mary Liu (dystopian)

SciFi

- *Ender's Game* —Orson Scott Card (Sci fi)
- *Ready Player One*
- *War of the Worlds* —(modern classic)
- *Cinder (and other books in the Lunar Chronicles)* —Marissa Meyer

Fiction

- *The Thing About Jellyfish* —Ali Benjamin
- *Tangerine* — Edward Bloor
- *The Fault in Our Stars* —John Greene
- *Little Women* —Louisa May Alcott (a classic)
- *Black Beauty* —Anna Sewell (a classic)
- *Hatchet* —Gary Paulsen (Newbery Medal/adventure)
- *Lord of the Flies* —William Golding (a classic)
- *Flowers for Algernon* —Daniel Keyes (a classic)
- *On the Come Up* —(language alert! Lots of bad words)
- *All the Stars Denied*—Guadalupe Garcia McCall
- *One Crazy Summer*—Rita Williams Garcia
- *Finding Langston* —Lesa Cline Ransom
- *Out of Left Field* —Elen Klages
- *The Night Diary* — Veera Hiranandani
- *Stella by Starlight* —Shannon M. Draper
- *The Length of a String* —Elissa Brent Weissman
- *Mapping the Bones*—Jane Yolan
- *Internment*— Samira Ahmed
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* —Mark Haddon (dark humor)
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* —Sherman Alexie (middle school)
- *The False Prince*—Jennifer A. Nielsen (middle school)
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* —Gennifer Choldenko (middle school)
- *Out of Left Field* —Ellen Kages (middle school)—Golden Poppy book Award
- *Color Me In* —Natasha Diaz
- *Tradition* —Brendan Kiely (mature themes alert!)

- *Maybe he just likes you* — Barabara Dee
- *The Things She's Seen* —Ambelin Kwaymullina
- *Far From the Tree* —Robin Benway (*National Book Award*)
- *White Fang AND Call of the Wild (read both)* —Jack London (*classic/adventure*)
- *A Separate Peace* —John Knowles (*a classic*)
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* —Betty Smith (*a classic*)
- *Bless Me, Ultima* —Rudolfo Anaya (*a classic*)
- *My Ántonia*—Willa Cather (*a classic*)
- *The Devil's Arithmetic* —Jane Yolen (*Holocaust theme/fantasy*)
- *The Book Thief* —Markus Zusak (*Holocaust theme/magical realism*)
- *Number the Stars* — (*Holocaust*)
- *Girl Used Up* —April Henry
- *Turtles All the Way Down* —John Greene
- *Scars Like Wings* — Erin Stewart
- *Wonder* —R.J. Palacio (*and other books in this series are good*)
- *Song for a Whale* —Lynn Kelly
- *The Mighty Miss Malone* —Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Crow* —Barbara Wright
- *Esperanza Rising* —Pam Muñoz Ryan

Newbery Award Winning books: (recommended for grades 4-8)

- *The Graveyard Book* —Neil Gaiman
- *Hattie Big Sky* —Kirby Larson
- *Rules* —Cynthia Lord
- *The Princess Academy* —Shannon Hale
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* —Gennifer Choldenko (*and California Young Reader Award*)
- *Piecing Me Together* —Renee Watson
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* —Kelly Barnhill
- *Wolf Hollow* —Lauren Wolk
- *Echo* —Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *One Came Home* —Amy Timberlake
- *Paper Boy* —Vince Vawter
- *The Crossover* —Kwame Alexander (*book in verse/poetry*)
- *Dead End in Norvelt* —Jack Gantos
- *Savvy* —Ingrid Law
- *Brown Girl Dreaming*— Jacqueline Woodson (*also a National Book Award Winner*) (*book in verse/poetry*)
- *The Chocolate War* —Robert Cormier
- *Kira Kira* —Cynthia Kadohata
- *The Thing About Luck* —Cynthia Kadohata
- ***Hatchet* —Gary Paulsen (*Newbery Medal/adventure*)**