

## Recommended Books for Seventh Grade

Please pick a book from the list below for your Summer Reading Assignment. If you would like to read one not on this list, please email me at [mgallop@ridgecroft.org](mailto:mgallop@ridgecroft.org) for book approval.

Anderson: *Fever, 1793* c2000 historical fiction

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

Barakat: *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood* c2007 biography The author remembers her childhood in Ramallah and as a Palestinian refugee in the late 1960s.

Bodeen: *The Compound* c2008 suspense

After his parents, two sisters, and he have spent six years in a vast underground compound built by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear holocaust, fifteen-year-old Eli, whose twin brother and grandmother were left behind, discovers that his father has perpetrated a monstrous hoax on them all.

Caputo: *10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War* c2005 nonfiction

Provides an in-depth examination of the significant events and battles of the Vietnam War, discusses the resulting social unrest in the United States, and offers profiles of the major political players of the period.

Collins: *The Hunger Games* c2008 science fiction [series: Hunger Games trilogy] In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an

annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Ellis: *The Breadwinner* c1990 historical fiction [series: Breadwinner trilogy]

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on

women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

Erskine: *Mockingbird (Mok'ing'burd)* c2008 realistic fiction Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Fleming: *The Great and Only Barnum: The Tremendous, Stupendous Life of Showman P. T. Barnum* c2009 biography  
Biography of P.T. Barnum, showman and founder of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. Readers can visit Barnum's American Museum; meet Tom Thumb, the miniature man (39 in. tall) and his tinier bride (32 in.); experience the thrill Barnum must have felt, at age 60, he joined the circus.

Funke: *The Thief Lord* c2001 suspense  
Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with -- and the protection of -- Venice's "Thief Lord."

Goodman: *Other Side of the Island* c2008 science fiction  
Born in the eighth year of Enclosure, ten-year-old Honor lives in a highly regulated colony with her defiant parents, but when they have an illegal second child and are taken away, it is up to Honor and her friend Helix, another "Unpredictable," to uncover a terrible secret about their Island and the Corporation that runs everything.

Green: *Football Genius* c2007 realistic fiction  
Troy, a sixth-grader with an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur, attempts to use his ability to help his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, but he must first prove himself to the coach and players.

Haddix: *Double Identity* c2005 science fiction, suspense Thirteen-year-old Bethany's parents have always been overprotective, but when they suddenly drop out of sight with no explanation, leaving her with an aunt she never knew existed, Bethany uncovers shocking secrets that make her question everything she thought she knew about herself and her family.

Hampton: *September 11, 2001: Attack on New York City* c2003 nonfiction  
Describes the September 11 attacks in the United States and presents several personal stories of tragedy told by New Yorkers who lived through the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Horowitz: *Stormbreaker* 2000 suspense [series: Alex Rider Adventures]  
Investigating the death of his uncle, fourteen-year-old orphan Alex Rider learns that his uncle was actually a spy and was preparing Alex to be a spy as well. He is then unwillingly recruited by the British intelligence service MI6 to carry on his uncle's assignment. He continues to track down villains to stop their plots towards power and revenge.

Lobel: *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War* c1998 nonfiction  
The author, known as an illustrator of children's books, describes her experiences as a Polish Jew during World War II and for years in Sweden afterwards.

Pfeffer: *Life As We Knew It* c2006 science fiction [series: Life as We Knew It]  
When a meteor hits the moon and knocks it closer to Earth's orbit, 16-year-old Miranda's life is turned upside-down. Miranda, through her diary entries, shows her family's struggle for survival in a world where food, warmth, sunlight, and hope are scarce. Even though life goes from bad to worse, Miranda finds strength and courage in herself and in her family to continue living.

Riordan: *The Lost Hero* c2010 fantasy, adventure [series: Heroes of Olympus]  
Jason, Piper and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Middle School Outline Template for  
Book Report**

This template will map out the information you need to include in your book report. **As you read the book, fill in the sections for this template.** You will receive a grade for this template and for the report (see points next to each item). When you go to write your book report, be sure to include the information completed on the following pages. **The final report must be typed and double spaced. Be sure to hand into your Reading teacher both this template and the book report when you return to school.**

**Introductory paragraph - What is the name and author of the book on which you are choosing to write? (2 pts.)**

Book title : \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**Write at least 3 facts about the author (Where is he/she from? What kinds of books does he/she write? About what topics does he/she write?) (3 pts.)**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd paragraph**

Write 1-2 sentences that give a brief summary of the book (ex: *Loser* is the story of Donald Zinkoff, a student who struggles to stand strong even though he is constantly teased by his classmates.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Write 2-3 sentences that describe the setting of the book (Where and when does the story take place? How is the setting significant to the story?)( 8 pts)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**3rd paragraph**

Write a topic sentence about the major characters of the book (ex: There are several main characters involved in the book *The Giver*) (8 pts.)

- \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the main characters in the book in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph (you may have 2, 3, 4, 5 or more important characters). Include characteristics of the characters that are important to the story.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4th paragraph**

Write a topic sentence about the main events that occur in the book (ex: There are several main events that happen in the story of *The Giver*) (10 pts.)

- \_\_\_\_\_

Include the main events of the book in the 4th paragraph:

- First, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Next, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Then, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Finally, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The 5th paragraph will discuss a section of the book you found to be most interesting. Start out this paragraph with the following quote.**

“The part of the book I found to be most interesting is around page \_\_\_\_\_, when . . . .”  
(jot down some of the interesting details here) (4 pts.)

Give at least 2 reasons why this part is interesting to you:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The 6th paragraph will tell why you liked or disliked the book**

The topic sentence should include whether you **liked** or **disliked** the book.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Include 3-4 sentences that tell **why** you liked, or disliked or the book. (6 pts.)

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_