

Summer Reading List for Rising 7th Graders Summer 2025

While I am sure each of you already has an eye on some good summer reading, below is a list of great books to add to your summer inventory. As part of your summer reading assignment, you should choose, then read, two books from this list. (Choose books **you have not read before**, and be sure they are **unabridged** versions.) You will then write a one page review (2 paragraphs long) of one of the two books you have chosen. You will also make a creative project inspired by the other book you have read. (See details below.) Happy reading! I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the books you read when we meet in September!

Titles in the *Time Trilogy* by Madeleine L'Engle (Do not read *A Ring of Endless Light*!)

The Door in the Wall, by Marguerite de Angeli

Jacob Have I Loved, by Katherine Paterson

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Holes, by Louis Sachar

Miracle on 49th Street or *The Big Field*, by Mike Lupica

A Dog's Life, by A. M. Martin

Shiloh, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Number the Stars or *A Summer to Die*, by Lois Lowry

Out of the Dust, by Karen Hesse

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry and *Let the Circle be Unbroken*, by Mildred D. Taylor

The Red Pyramid and other titles, by Rick Riordan

Dacey's Song, *Jackaroo*, *Tree by Leaf*, by Cynthia Voigt

The Mysterious Benedict Society or its sequels*, by Trenton Lee Stewart

Walk Two Moons, by Sharon Creech

My Side of the Mountain, by Jean Crqaihead George

Ida B....and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World, by K. Hannigan

The London Eye Mystery, by Siobhan Dowd

Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson

Redwall, by Brian Jacques

Tuck Everlasting, by Natalie Babbitt

*******The Fellowship of the Ring*, by J.R.R. Tolkien

Cheaper by the Dozen, by Frank Gilbreth and Ernestine Carey

Any novel by Charles Dickens (*Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, etc.),
Mark Twain (*Tom Sawyer*, *Puddn'head Wilson*)

*Read one of the sequels only if you have already read *The Mysterious Benedict Society*.

******You may read the next book in the series if you have already read the first.

The Book Review

Write a one-page (two-paragraph) review of one of the two books you have chosen to read. The review must be typed and double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font and one-inch margins. Use a Scholar's heading. Turn in both a **rough** and a **final** draft. Mechanics count!

★ Paragraph One

In the first paragraph describe the book's genre, setting (time and place), main characters, and plot. When you describe the plot, think about the central conflict that needs to be resolved in the story or the key problem that needs to be solved. Don't just make a list of events. Conflicts can be between different characters; within a single character; between one character and a society or political system; or between a character and the natural world. Describe this conflict and its ultimate resolution. Did the main character learn anything from this conflict?

★ Paragraph Two

In the second paragraph, describe the overarching theme of the novel. What idea or point holds the story together? What message does the author want to get across to the reader in telling this story? (For example, love is stronger than hate; enduring hardship may make a person stronger or develop wisdom; the importance of friendship; respect for those who are different; respect for the earth; the dangers of technology; the inhumanity of modern industrial forces; etc.) Describe one or two specific scenes that bring the theme of the novel to light. For example, in *A Tale of Two Cities*, several scenes with Lucie and her father, Dr. Manette, demonstrate the transformative power of love.

Note: You should include at least one passage from the text, with a citation, in each paragraph.

The Creative Project

Choose from the list of project ideas below. Be sure that your project is neatly done, presented in a polished manner, and labeled with your name and the title/author of the book you have read.

- Create a game based on the book.
- Write and illustrate a children's version of the book.
- Write a series of letters between the main character and another character (~5 letters).
- Write a series of journal entries from the point of view of one of the characters (~3 typed pages).
- Write a letter to the author of the story explaining why you did/did not find the story compelling; suggest how you might change the plot line/characters/setting to make the story more convincing or suggest the outline of a prequel/sequel.
- Write a play based on the book.
- Build a detailed model based on the book.
- Write a song based on the book and set it to original music.
- Create an advertising campaign for your book. If the novel has been made into a film, do not use materials that have already been created.

Remember:

Your project should include:

1. Your name.
2. Title of the book (formatted properly).
3. Author's name.
4. Good mechanics!!!!