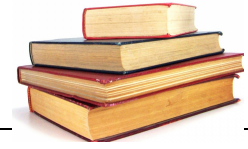


Entering 7th Graders:

You are required to read a total of **TWO** books over the summer. Select **any two books** from the list below.
(See back reverse for continued directions on writing.)



	SUGGESTED READING	
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll	An 1865 novel written by English author under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It tells of a girl named Alice who falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. The tale plays with logic, giving the story lasting popularity with adults as well as with children.
<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>	Norton Juster	This fantasy centers around Milo, who comes home to find a large toy tollbooth sitting in his room. Joining forces with a watchdog named Tock, Milo drives through the tollbooth's gates and begins a memorable journey. He meets such characters as the foolish, yet lovable Humbug, the Mathemagician, and the not-so-wicked "Which," and Faintly Macabre. If you enjoy wordplay, this is the book for you.
<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.
<i>Farewell to Manzanar*</i>	Jeanne Houston & James Houston	Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp--with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. Along with searchlight towers and armed guards, Manzanar ludicrously featured cheerleaders, Boy Scouts, sock hops, baton twirling lessons and a dance band called the Jive Bombers who would play any popular song except the nation's #1 hit: "Don't Fence Me In."
<i>Double Identity</i>	Margaret Peterson Haddix	As Bethany approaches her thirteenth birthday, her parents act more oddly than usual. Her mother cries constantly, and her father barely lets Bethany out of his sight. One morning he hustles the family into the car, drives across several state lines, and leaves Bethany with an aunt she never knew existed.
<i>Olive's Ocean</i>	Kevin Henkes	Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends, but they weren't. Weeks after a tragic accident, all that is left are eerie connections between the two girls, former classmates who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now, even while on vacation at the ocean, Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. Things only get more complicated when Martha begins to like Jimmy Manning, a neighbor boy she used to despise.
<i>A Long Walk to Water*</i>	Linda Sue Park	The Sudanese water crisis is told through two perspectives – that of Nya, a Sudanese girl in 2008 who walks two hours to retrieve water, and Salva, in 1985, who becomes one of the lost boys of Sudan. This is based on a true story and is extremely powerful.
<i>Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie</i>	Jordan Sonnenblick	Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece.
<i>The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts</i>	Richard Peck	"If your teacher has to die, August isn't a bad time of year for it," begins Richard Peck's latest novel, a book full of his signature wit and sass. Russell Culver is fifteen in 1904, and he's raring to leave his tiny Indiana farm town for the endless sky of the Dakotas. To him, school has been nothing but a chain holding him back from his dreams. Maybe now that his teacher has passed on, they'll shut the school down entirely and leave him free to roam.
<i>The Wild Robot</i>	Peter Brown	When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is, but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm, she realizes her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.
<i>Peter and the Starcatchers</i>	Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson	A fast-paced, impossible-to-put-down adventure awaits as the young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They set sail aboard the <i>Never Land</i> , a ship carrying a precious and mysterious trunk in its cargo hold, and the journey quickly becomes fraught with excitement and danger.
<i>Kira-Kira</i>	Cynthia Kadohata	When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- <i>kira-kira</i> -- in the future.
<i>Out of the Dust</i>	Karen Hesse	This gripping story, written in sparse first-person, free-verse poems, is the compelling tale of Billie Jo's struggle to survive during the dust bowl years of the Depression. With stoic courage, she learns to cope with the loss of her mother and her grieving father's slow deterioration. There is hope at the end when Billie Jo's badly burned hands are healed, and she is able to play her beloved piano again.
<i>Ungifted</i>	Gordon Korman	Told in alternating perspectives, the plot revolves around Donovan Curtis, a troublemaker that gets wrapped up in a major prank gone wrong.
<i>Graveyard Book</i>	Neil Gaiman	Bod is an unusual boy who inhabits an unusual place --- he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the antiquated customs of his guardians' time as well as their ghostly teachings -- such as the ability to Fade so mere mortals cannot see him.

<i>"The President Has Been Shot!" The Assassination of John F. Kennedy*</i>	James Swanson	With archival photos, diagrams, source notes, diagrams, source notes, and other documentation, this book provides an account of the assassination of President JFK and related events, including his funeral and the apprehension of his killer.
<i>Ender's Game</i>	Orson Scott Card	In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. Ender is drafted for rigorous military training.
<i>Jungle of Bones</i>	Ben Mikaelson	When teenager Dylan is caught joyriding in a stolen car, he is sent to his ex-Marine uncle for the summer. Soon they are on the way to Papua New Guinea in search of a World War II fighter plane, and Dylan discovers defiance is not a survival skill.
<i>The House of Scorpion</i>	Nancy Farmer	In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 140-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
<i>Guitar Notes</i>	Mary Amato	Tripp, who plays guitar only for himself, and Lyla, a cellist whose talent has already made her famous but not happy, form an unlikely friendship when they share a practice room at their high school.
<i>Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics</i>	John Feinstein	Teenage journalists Susan and Steve find themselves involved in mysterious events at the swimming trials leading to the London Olympics. While Susan prepares to swim for gold, Steve is trying to uncover an event-fixing mystery.
<i>The Emerald Atlas</i>	John Stephens	Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared, but now they learn they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy.
<i>So B. It</i>	Sarah Weeks	After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.
<i>Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem*</i>	Rosalyn Schanzer	In the little colonial town of Salem Village, Massachusetts, two girls began to twitch, mumble, and contort their bodies into strange shapes. The doctor tried every remedy, but nothing cured the young Puritans. He grimly announced the dire diagnosis: the girls were bewitched! And then the accusations began.

*Nonfiction

WRITER'S NOTEBOOK DIRECTIONS FOR SUMMER READING:

While you are reading, you will respond in your Writer's Notebook to each of the books you read. (1) You will need a NEW Writer's Notebook (8 ½ x 11 spiral notebook). (2) OPTIONAL: Decorate it with pictures, clippings, quotes, and other things that reflect something about you and that you could possibly use to provide inspiration for your writing. Seal it with clear packing tape or contact paper so that nothing falls off. (3) Answer the following summer reading questions.....

Summer Reading Questions:

1. What is the theme of this book? (Remember: the theme is the main point the author is trying to communicate to the reader; it should be a complete sentence and a universal statement. It should NOT have the word "you" in it.)
2. Name one major conflict from the book and describe how that conflict is resolved.
3. Explain how you can relate to this book. Consider the plot, characters, setting, etc.

