

Sandy Spring Friends School
7th/8th Grade Summer Reading List
2008

7th grade required books:

The Watsons Go To Birmingham

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Flipped

by Wendelin Van Draanen

8th grade required books:

Double Helix by Nancy Werlin

Freak the Mighty by W. R. Philbrick

7th and 8th graders should return in the fall prepared to discuss the themes from the required reading in their social studies and English classes.

Summer is a great time to enjoy books and stories. This is a list of suggestions that might interest you, but don't let it limit you. Your public library is full of treasures: facts and fiction, books and magazines, short stories and graphic novels. Listening to audio books is a great way to pass the time while traveling or doing chores. Enjoy an old favorite or try something new to you.

Students are encouraged to read in French or Spanish, play with foreign language software, and visit suitable websites such as <http://fr.yahoo.com> and <http://espndeportes.espn.go.com>.

Foreign Language -- French

Almargot and Bläsi. *Des Voisins Mystérieux.* French children vacationing on Ile d'Oléron, an island off the coast of Brittany in France, discover that they have some strange neighbors.

Conroy, Joseph F. *Le Monstre dans le Métro et d'autres Mérvailles.* Monsters in the subway, vampires, werewolves, and other surprises await the unsuspecting reader in these short stories!

Goscinny and Sempé. *Le Petit Nicolas.* More advanced French students will love these hilarious stories of little Nicolas and the trouble he and his friends get into. These classic stories are still best sellers in France for readers of all ages.

Foreign Language -- Spanish

Inglés de Supervivencia - Survival Spanish: Words and Sentences to Get You Out of Trouble. Creative scenes with funny captions in Spanish and English will get you out of any crazy dilemma.

Longo, Alejandra. *Refranes: Al Mal Tiempo, Buena Cara.* The most common Spanish proverbs explained with captions and clever illustrations. Can you figure out how we say them in English?

Jiménez, Francisco. *Cajas de Cartón - The Circuit.* The true story of an adolescent boy who moves with his family from rural Mexico for a better life in California. But are things really better?

Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de. *Las Aventuras de Don Quijote de la Mancha.* Once upon a time in La Mancha, Spain, there was a man who went crazy from reading too many books. We suggest a small Spanish version of this book, or if you prefer, one of the English translations.

Ray, Blaine. *Pobre Ana.* An easy novel for first-year Spanish students. Fourteen-year-old Ana thinks she has it tough, but a trip to Mexico helps Ana see how fortunate she really is.

Any *Froggy* book in Spanish. These funny picture books offer the opportunity to practice and increase basic vocabulary.

Historical Fiction

Choldenko, Jennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts.* When his Dad takes a job as a prison guard, twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935. Finding himself caught in the social interactions of this odd cut-off world, Moose must contend with his new environment in addition to watching his autistic sister.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963.* Ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan, go to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama during a troubled time in American history.

Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice.* A fourteenth-century orphan girl proves herself as a midwife's assistant.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *House of Tailors.* Afraid of being accused as a spy, thirteen-year-old Dina emigrates from Germany to Brooklyn, New York in 1871 to escape capture and, she hopes, a life of sewing.

Hesse, Karen. *Letters from Rifka.* When her family leaves Russia for America, Rifka is left behind in Belgium to recover from a case of ringworm that has left her bald.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira.* A chronicle of the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and of the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

McMullan, Margaret. *How I Found the Strong.* When ten-year-old Shanks is left behind as his father and brother go off to fight for the Confederacy, he's disappointed to miss the excitement but as the Civil War comes closer home his life proves to be more eventful than he ever imagined.

- Park, Linda Sue. *When My Name was Keoko*. With national pride and occasional fear, a brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to entirely suppress Korean culture.
- Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising*. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.
- Sherlock, Patti. *Letters from Wolfie*. Thirteen-year-old Mark donates his dog, Wolfie, to the Army's scout program during the Vietnam War. Only through correspondence with Wolfie's army handler does he find out the Army won't say when - or if - the dogs will be returned.
- Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. The coming-of-age story of young, sensitive and artistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the turn-of-the-century Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn.

Humor

- Avi. *Never Mind: A Twin Novel*. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.
- Bauer, Joan. *Squashed*. The comic story of a sixteen-year-old trying to meet two goals - growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing 20 pounds.
- DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie*. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.
- Lisle, Janet. *How I Became a Writer and Oggie Learned to Drive*.
To distract his little brother, Oggie, from the turbulence of his parents' divorce, Archie, tells him stories about "The Mysterious Mole People." When Oggie's wallet is stolen by some local thugs, Archie tries to retrieve it and finds himself an unwilling member of a gang.

Modern Fiction

- Bredsdorff, Bodil. *Crow-Girl: The Children of Crow Cove*. After the death of her grandmother, a young Danish orphan is taken in by a greedy woman who demands her labor and steals her belongings; Crow-Girl eventually escapes and finds new friends with troubles and talents of their own.
- Crew, Linda. *Children of the River*. A teenaged immigrant from Cambodia finds it hard to be "American" at school and Cambodian at home, particularly after she meets a special boy.
- Hahn, Jenny. *Shug*. Annemarie "Shug" feels freakishly tall, freakishly flat-chested, and freakishly freckled. Now she's starting Junior High where all her friends act like complete strangers.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Criss Cross*. Fourteen-year-old Debbie, who wishes something would happen in her life and Hector, who feels unfinished, narrate this humorous story about a group of friends facing the crossroads of life.

Philbrick, W.R. *Freak the Mighty*. At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend, Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Soto, Gary. *Pacific Crossing*. Two Mexican-American boys are invited to spend the summer in Japan as exchange students learning the martial art of *kempo*.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Hush*. Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the Federal witness protection program and they must come to terms with their new identities, the loss of their past, and an uncertain future.

Mystery

Anderson, Janet. *Last Treasure*. Following a pleading letter from a Quaker aunt he's never met, Ellsworth Smith braves his father's displeasure to visit unknown relatives and eventually joins forces with Jess, his distant cousin, to uncover family secrets and search for their ancestor's hidden treasure.

Avi. *Midnight Magic*. Set in Italy in 1491, Mangus the magician and his apprentice are summoned to the castle of Duke Claudio to determine if the duke's daughter is indeed being haunted by a ghost.

Colfer, Eoin. *Half-Moon Investigations*. After graduating at the top of his Internet class, Fletcher Moon is officially certified as the youngest detective in the world. Things liven up when a classmate hires him to solve a crime and he must track down a conspiracy or be framed for a crime he did not commit.

Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer*. Strange and inexplicable occurrences bring Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay together; before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal when a Vermeer painting disappears.

Hoobler, Dorothy & Thomas. *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*. While attempting to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel, fourteen-year-old Seikei, a merchant's son who longs to be a samurai, joins a group of kabuki actors in eighteenth-century Japan.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Conly, Jane Leslie. *Rudest Alien on Earth*. An alien named Olu, who has the ability to take the shape of any animal she wants, comes to Earth as a sort of intergalactic anthropologist with an assignment to observe the native creatures.

Farmer, Nancy. *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm*. In Zimbabwe in 2194, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastics mine (among other adventures) while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

Kaaberbol, Lene. *Shamer's Daughter*. After her mother, a Shamer (one who has the ability elicit confessions simply by looking into someone's eyes), is summoned away on a mission, ten-year-old Dina is forced to use her own Shamer powers as she is caught up in an adventure of political intrigue and survival.

Katz, Jon. *A Dog Year: Twelve Months, Four Dogs, and Me*. In this story of trust and understanding a collie named Devon and a man named Jon come to terms with each other.

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*. In an alternative universe where everyone is psychically linked to an animal companion called a "daemon", a girl and her daemon try to stop terrible experiments being done on children.

Stanley, Diane. *Bella at Midnight*. Daughter to an uncaring father and delicate mother, Bella, fiercely loving and brave, saves a kingdom at war in this twist on the Cinderella story.

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Amulet of Samarkand*. A young magician's apprentice is humiliated by a hotshot wizard, so in revenge he summons the not-so-tame djinni, Bartimaeus, to help him to steal a magical amulet.

Wells, H.G. *The War of the Worlds*. A classic, thrilling, tension-filled tale of the invasion of the earth by the more technologically advanced Martians.

Survival/Adventure

Marshall, James. *Walkabout*. Two American children lost in the outback of Australia are rescued by an Australian aborigine and cultural differences result in tragedy.

Naidoo, Beverly. *The Other Side of Truth*. Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother find themselves abandoned in London when their uncle fails to meet them at the airport.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*. After a plane crash strands 13-year-old Brian, he spends 54 days in the wilderness learning to survive with the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The classic tale of escapades, pranks, romances, and adventures of the irrepressible Tom Sawyer and his friend, Huck Finn.

Non-fiction

Ackerman, Diane. *Moon by Whale Light: and Other Adventures Among Bats, Penguins, Crocodilians and Whales*. A poet and naturalist reports on her adventures with unusual animals.

Alexander, Caroline. *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*. The true survival story of Shackleton's 1914 expedition to Antarctica, where he and his crew were trapped on ice floes for twenty months.

Carson, Rachel. *Edge of the Sea*. From Maine's rocky coast to the coral reefs beyond the Florida Keys, here is a guide to the fascinating creatures who inhabit the world where sea and shore meet.

Colman, Penny. *Corpses, Coffins, and Crypts: A History*. In an intriguing approach to a difficult subject, the author documents the burial process throughout the centuries and in different cultures.

Finch, Linda with Donald Smith. *No Limits: A Woman Pilot's Search for the Real Amelia Earhart*. In this biography of the famous flier, the author re-creates and completes the flight of Amelia Earhart's last voyage around the world.

Fradin, Judith B., and Dennis Fradin. *5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery*. Both gripping history and an exciting escape adventure, this account of a husband and wife on the run from slavery traces their journey to freedom in the U.S and across the world.

Junger, Sebastian. *The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea*. The gripping adventure of peril and rescue caused by a storm off the coast of Massachusetts in 1991.

Lefkowitz, Arthur. *Bushnell's Submarine: The Best Kept Secret of the American Revolution*. The world's first submarine, the *Turtle*, was tasked to sink the British flagship in New York harbor during the American Revolution.

Marrin, Albert. *Oh Rats! The Story of Rats and People*.

A downright revolting but truthful look at the shared history of one of the animal kingdom's greatest survivors.

Porter, A.P. *Jump at de Sun: The Story of Zora Neale Hurston*. A biography of the wonderful folklorist, novelist, and short story writer who began her career by studying anthropology with Franz Boaz and ended up brilliantly chronicling African-American life.

Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I was Puerto Rican*. This is a humorous and insightful description of a childhood and adolescence in rural Puerto Rico by the eldest of eleven children, who went on to attend Harvard.

Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson. *Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*. From feedlot to fryer, the authors dish up a somewhat stomach turning look at the fast food industry.