

7th Grade
Summer 2023 Reading Program
Exploring Growth in Character

Concept:

In 7th grade, we will be focusing on our transformation from childhood to adolescence. These summer reading books have been selected to inspire students by allowing them to experience stories that explore growth in character. Students will be incorporating themes and ideas from their summer reading into their work in 7th grade English.

Assignment:

1. It is suggested that all students read **Claudette Covin: Twice Towards Justice**, by Phillip Hoose.
2. Additionally, all students will read as many books as possible over the summer. Students may select books of their own choosing or select books from either the teacher-generated or student-generated lists below.
3. Keep a *Reading Chart* of all the books you read. List the title, author, and number of pages.

Teacher-Generated List

<i>All the Right Stuff</i> Walter Dean Myers	<i>Crystal Ribbon</i> Celeste Lim
<i>Crossover</i> Kwame Alexander	<i>The Fifth Wave</i> Richard Yancey
<i>Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science</i> Jeannie Atkins	<i>Norse Mythology</i> Neil Gaiman
<i>The Prophecy Keepers</i> Melanie Bryant	<i>See You in the Cosmos</i> Jack Cheng
<i>Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line</i> Andrew Maraniss	<i>Tight</i> Torrey Maldonado

Student-Generated List:

<i>The Black Witch Chronicles Series</i> Laurie Forest Recommended by Elsa Cai	<i>The Maze Runner</i> James Dashner Recommended by Sophia Hsu
<i>Ghost Boys</i> Jewell Parker Rhodes Recommended by Hannah Gan	<i>Blackthorne Keys</i> Kevin Sands Recommended by Matthew Chao
<i>The Perfect Score</i> Rob Buyea Recommended by Hannah Yin	<i>Soul Surfer Devotions</i> Bethany Hamilton Recommended by Isabella Cacatian
<i>The Hunger Games</i> Suzanne Collins Recommended by Kyle Tran	<i>Hawk</i> James Patterson Recommended by Leah Gold
<i>The Seventh Most Important Thing</i> Shelley Pearsall Recommended by Lauren Kang	<i>Not An Easy Win</i> Chrystal D. Giles Recommended by Dillyet Benyam
<i>Mamba Mentality: How I Play</i> Kobe Bryant	Books by Rick Riordan and JK Rowling Recommended by Eddie Lee, Khoa Nguyen, Elsa Cai
<i>Ready Player One</i> Ernest Cline	<i>Windswept</i> Margi Preus

All the Right Stuff

Myers, Walter Dean

When his troubled father is killed in a street shooting, 16-year-old Paul is determined to become the hero his father never was. The means to this end present themselves when he lands a community-service job working at a soup kitchen. The elderly proprietor, Elijah I. Jones, introduces the boy to the concept of the social contract. Soon Paul's job is far more than just serving soup to seniors; it is a de facto seminar on citizen-government interaction, social justice, and civil liberties. Set in Myers' signature Harlem neighborhood, this novel of ideas is a challenging but rewarding read that invites readers to learn, along with Paul, a complex philosophical—and practical—concept.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice

Hoose, Phillip M.

Based on extensive interviews with Claudette Colvin and many others, Phillip Hoose presents the first in-depth account of an important yet largely unknown civil rights figure, skillfully weaving her dramatic story into the fabric of the historic Montgomery bus boycott and court case that would change the course of American history.

Crossover

Alexander, Kwame

Twelve-year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.

Crystal Ribbon

Lim, Celeste

In the village of Huanan, in medieval China, the deity that rules is the Great Huli Jing. Though twelve-year-old Li Jing's name is a different character entirely from the Huli Jing, the sound is close enough to provide constant teasing-but maybe is also a source of greater destiny and power. Jing's life isn't easy. Her father is a poor tea farmer, and her family has come to the conclusion that in order for everyone to survive, Jing must be sacrificed for the common good. She is sold as a bride to the Koh family, where she will be the wife and nursemaid to their three-year-old son, Ju'nan. It's not fair, and Jing feels this bitterly, especially when she is treated poorly by the Koh's, and sold yet again into a worse situation that leads Jing to believe her only option is to run away, and find home again. With the help of a spider who weaves Jing a means to escape, and a nightingale who helps her find her way, Jing embarks on a quest back to Huanan--and to herself.

The Fifth Wave

Yancey, Richard

After the first wave, only darkness remains. After the second wave, only the lucky escape. After the third wave, only the unlucky survive. After the fourth wave, only one rule applies: trust no one.

Now it's the dawn of the fifth wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Cassie believes that to stay alone is to stay alive; until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother – or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose between trust and despair, defiance and surrender, and life and death.

Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science

Atkins, Jeannie

A gorgeously written novel in verse about three girls in three different time periods who grew up to become groundbreaking scientists.

Norse Mythology

Gaiman, Neil

In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman stays true to the myths in envisioning the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki—son of a giant—blood brother to Odin and a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator.

Gaiman fashions these primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants. Through Gaiman's deft and witty prose, these gods emerge with their fiercely competitive natures, their susceptibility to being duped and to

duping others, and their tendency to let passion ignite their actions, making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.

Prophecy Keepers

Bryant, Melanie

Fourteen year old Lisandra Ackart discovers that she is the "Gifted One" spoken of in the ancient legends and reluctantly embarks on a journey to save her world from the rising Darkness.

See You in the Cosmos

Cheng, Jack

11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan—named for his hero, the real-life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way Carl Sagan launched his Golden Record on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to L.A., Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth, *his* earth, is like. The funny, lost, and remarkable people he meets along the way can only partially prepare him for the secrets he'll uncover—from the truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not-around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew.

Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line

Andrew Maraniss

Perry Wallace was born at an historic crossroads in U.S. history. He entered kindergarten the year that the Brown v. Board of Education decision led to integrated schools, allowing blacks and whites to learn side by side. A week after Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, Wallace enrolled in high school and his sensational jumping, dunking, and rebounding abilities quickly earned him the attention of college basketball recruiters from top schools across the nation. In his senior year his Pearl High School basketball team won Tennessee's first racially-integrated state tournament.

The world seemed to be opening up at just the right time, and when Vanderbilt University recruited Wallace to play basketball, he courageously accepted the assignment to desegregate the Southeastern Conference. The hateful experiences he would endure on campus and in the hostile gymnasiums of the Deep South turned out to be the stuff of nightmares. Yet Wallace persisted, endured, and met this unthinkable challenge head on. This insightful biography digs deep beneath the surface to reveal a complicated, profound, and inspiring story of an athlete turned civil rights trailblazer.

Tight

Maldonado, Torrey

Bryan's mom has always encouraged his quiet, thoughtful nature, but his dad is different. He thinks it's time for the sixth-grader to toughen up. With a quick temper and recently out of jail on probation, he tells Bryan it's better for a man to be feared than to be liked.

Bryan's not really sure about this, and it doesn't seem to even matter when he befriends new kid Mike. At first everything is calm and chill, the way Bryan likes it, as the boys bond over their love of reading comics and drawing superheroes. But things get uncomfortable when it turns out Mike has some risky ideas about how to have fun. Then Bryan's dad gets in a fight and ends up back in jail, and something in Bryan snaps. He starts cutting school, jumping subway turnstiles and going train surfing, with Mike in the

lead. But when Mike takes things a step too far and shows his true colors, Bryan has a difficult decision to make.