

Suggested Reading for Grade 7

The following titles are recommended as summer reading both to maintain fluency and reading level and to encourage independent reading. Students may find these titles at libraries and bookstores.

1. Alexander, Lloyd. *The Arkadians.*

Three Arkadians wander through a fantasy land from one misadventure to another. An out-of-work bean counter, a young woman of mysterious talents, and a poet try to escape the wicked King Bromios and his crooked soothsayers.

2. Armstrong, Jennifer. *Steal Away.*

Two women, one white and one black, tell the story of their escape from a southern farm during the 1850s and of their difficult journey north to freedom.

3. Banks, Lynne Reid. *Mystery of the Cupboard.*

After moving to a home his mother recently inherited, Omri uncovers the mystery of the house and its link to a magic cupboard. A sequel to *Indian in the Cupboard*.

4. Bruchac, Joseph. *A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull.*

The true story of a child so deliberate and methodical he was called Slow; he turns out to be Sitting Bull, the Lakota's greatest leader.

5. Bruchac, Joseph. *The Boy Who Lived with the Bears and Other Iroquois Stories.*

Six Iroquois stories illustrated with dramatic scratchboard.

6. Byars, Betsy. *The Moon and I.*

The author describes her hilarious adventures with a black snake and some comical stories about her first attempts at becoming a professional writer.

7. Coville, Bruce. *Jennifer Murdley's Toad.*

Imagine owning a talking toad! Read about Jennifer's remarkable adventures after she purchases such a talented pet.

8. Coville, Bruce. *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher.*

When twelve-year-old Jeremy unwittingly buys a dragon's egg, his whole life changes.

9. Creech, Sharon. *Absolutely Normal Chaos.*

Mary Louis is keeping a journal as an English class assignment. Through the entries, the events of her summer come alive.

10. Cummings, Pat. *Talking with Artists: Volume Two.*

Thirteen renowned picture book illustrators describe their childhood, working methods, and sources of inspiration, as well as offer advice for budding artists.

11. Engel, Dean & Freedman, Florence B. *Jack Keats: A Biography with Illustrations.*

A biography with rich insights into the life of an internationally acclaimed author and illustrator, including full-color reproductions of his early work.

12. Fritz, Jean. *You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?*

This engaging historical biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton presents a lively look at her impatient, outspoken personality as she fought for women's suffrage.

13. George, Jean Craighead. *Julie.*

A terrific sequel to *Julie of the Wolves*. When Julie returns to her father's Eskimo village, she struggles to find a way to save her beloved wolves in a changing Arctic world.

14. Gray, Luli. *Falcon's Egg.*

Keeping a dragon in a New York City apartment can be challenging!

15. Haas, Jessie. *Uncle Daney's Way.*

Twelve-year-old Cole learns how to work with a logging horse as well as valuable lessons about life from his Uncle Daney.

16. Hobbs, Will. *The Big Wander.*

Searching for his uncle in rugged Southwest canyon country, Clay becomes involved with a group of Navajo Indians who are trying to save some of the last wild mustangs.

17. Lowry, Lois. *All About Sam and Attaboy Sam.*

Anastasia Krupnik describes the adventures of her brother, from his first day as a newborn through his mischievous early years.

18. McKay, Hilary. *Dog Friday.*

A boy finds himself in a series of often hilarious, occasionally dangerous scrapes when a wild and eccentric family moves next door.

19. Paulsen, Gary. *Brian's Winter.*

What would have happened if Brian Robeson, the subject of *Hatchet*, had not been rescued when he had? Brian must confront the Canadian winter; he scrambles to reinforce his shelter and make animal skin clothing and arrowhead tools to help him improve hunting techniques.

20. Paulsen, Gary. *Call Me Francis Tucket.*

In this sequel to Mr. Tucket, Francis feels he can handle himself in the wild. The story relates his many mishaps as he attempts to conquer the wilderness.

21. Rylant, Cynthia. *The Van Gogh Cafe.*

Magic seems to occur at a cafe in Kansas where Clara and her father witness a series of unusual happenings.

22. Stevenson, James. *Sweet Corn.*

Twenty-eight short poems accompanied by creative designs that complement the text.

23. Van Laan, Nancy. *In a Circle Long Ago: A Treasury of Native Lore from North America.*

A collection of stories, songs, and poems from Native American tribal traditions.

24. Yolen, Jane. *The Ballad of the Pirate Queens.*

A renowned storyteller weaves the legends of history's proudest and most fearless pirates, Anne Bonney and Mary Read, into a celebration in verse.

25. Watkins, Yoko Kawashima. *My Brother, My Sister, and I.*

This is a sequel to *So Far from the Bamboo Grove*. Living as refugees in Japan in 1947, thirteen-year-old Yoko and her brother and sister search for their missing father.

The following books may **NOT** be used for summer reading:

1. Where the Red Fern Grows
2. Johnny Tremain
3. The Giver
4. Hatchet
5. Number the Stars
6. Dacey's Song
7. The Outsiders
8. Z for Zachariah
9. My Brother Sam Is Dead
10. 20,000 Leagues under the Sea
11. The Cay
12. Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH
13. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
14. Holes