

Seventh Grade ELA Summer Reading 2017

DIRECTIONS: You are required to read **TWO BOOKS** – one from the Fiction List and one from the Nonfiction List.

FICTION LIST - Choose ONE

*Since you will be writing an open response for your chosen novel during the first two weeks of school, it is **HIGHLY** recommended that you take notes while you read in order to help you recall important details about the characters and plot--**ONLY** handwritten notes can be used during the assessment.*

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander** (Newbery Medal Winner) Josh 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. But both brothers must come to grips with growing up, on and off the court, as they realize breaking the rules can come at a terrible price, resulting in a game-changer for their entire family.

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** (Newbery Honor Book) An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II. Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute; she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

***School for Good and Evil* by Soman Chainani** Welcome to the School for Good and Evil, where best friends Sophie and Agatha are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Sophie knows she'll earn top marks at the School for Good and join the ranks of past students like Cinderella, Rapunzel, and Snow White. Meanwhile, Agatha seems a natural fit for the villains in the School for Evil. The two girls soon find their fortunes reversed; Sophie is dumped in the School for Evil to take Uglification, Death Curses, and Henchmen Training, while Agatha finds herself in the School for Good, thrust among handsome princes and fair maidens for classes in Princess Etiquette and Animal Communication. But what if the mistake is actually the first clue to discovering who Sophie and Agatha really are?

***Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings** Brady loves his life on the Chesapeake Bay, crabbing and oyster fishing with friends J.T. and Digger. But developers and rich summer families are moving into the area, and while Brady befriends some of them, others are bitter about the new construction. Tragedy strikes when a kayak sinks in the bay, and Brady discovers what happened was something other than an accident. A story of loyalty, choices and courage.

***Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai** (National Book Award, Newbery Honor Book) Based on the author's own childhood and written in free-verse poems, this unforgettable story captures a fierce girl's struggles to find her place in her family, in her new home, and in the world.

***QBI* by Mike Lupica** From the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Travel Team* and *Heat* comes a cheer-worthy, family friendly novel inspired by the real-life Manning family of quarterbacks, set amid the "Friday Night Lights" world of Texas high school football.

***Echo* by Pam Ryan** Lost and alone in the forbidden Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Decades later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California each become interwoven when the very same harmonica lands in their lives, binding them by an invisible thread of destiny.

***The Marvels* by Bryan Selznick** Two seemingly unrelated stories—one in words, the other in pictures—come together with spellbinding synergy! The illustrated story begins in 1766 with Billy Marvel, the lone survivor of a shipwreck, and charts the adventures of his family of actors over five generations. The prose story opens in 1990 and follows Joseph, who has run away from school to an estranged uncle's puzzling house in London, where he, along with the reader, must piece together many mysteries.

***Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell** Black Beauty's story, as told by himself, is the fascinating tale of the life of a horse a hundred years ago, when horses were a part of daily life. Although his colthood and early life are happy, Black Beauty tastes the bitterness of cruel handlers and indifferent masters as he passes from hand to hand, progressing from the country to London and back again.

NONFICTION LIST - Choose ONE

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***Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America* by Karen Blumenthal** (Jane Addams Book Award) A look at the history of Title IX, which gave girls and women equal access to physical education and athletic scholarships at schools and universities.

***Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of John Wilkes Booth and Edwin Booth* by James Giblin Cross** (Boston Globe Horn Book Awards) Edwin Booth was an actor on the verge of national fame when his brother, John Wilkes, shot and killed Abraham Lincoln.

***Forbidden Schoolhouse* by Suzanne Jurmain** (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards) In 1831, in the face of much violent opposition, Prudence Crandall allowed an African-American teenager to enroll in her CT school for white children.

***The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller** At the age of nineteen months, Helen Keller became deaf and blind after a serious illness. With the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, Helen overcame adversities to learn to read, write, speak, and enjoy the world around her. Helen Keller's triumph over her blindness and deafness has become one of the most inspiring and well-known stories of our time, as well as the subject of movies and plays such as *The Miracle Worker*. Here is her famous autobiography, a book that captures her early years and her struggle to communicate and become educated. Includes selected letters. Originally published in 1902 — when she was a young woman — this is Helen Keller's own story — poignant, dramatic, inspiring and memorable.

***Guts* by Gary Paulsen** Gary tells the real stories behind the Brian books, the stories of the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in *Hatchet*; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own.

***No Summit Out of Sight* by Jordan Romero** On May 22, 2010, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At 15, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountain on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true.

***Knots in my Yo-Yo String* by Jerry Spinelli** Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli has penned his early autobiography with all the warmth, humor, and drama of his best-selling fiction.

***Secrets of the Civil War Submarine* by Sally Walker** (BCCB Blue Ribbon Book Awards) The story of the HL Hunley, a Confederate submarine lost during the Civil War and found/examined in 1995.