



The Anderson School • P.S. 334
Summer 2018 Grade 7 Summer Reading Book List

Required Summer Reading for all students: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. See page 2 for details.

Recommended Books:

Fiction:

Milkweed: A Novel by Jerry Spinelli
If I Stay by Gayle Forman
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Purple Heart by Patricia McCormick
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
A Voice of Her Own: Becoming Emily Dickinson by Barbara Dana
Heart of a Champion: A Novel by Carl Deuker
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
Little Brother by Cory Doctorow
Son by Lois Lowry

Fantasy and Science Fiction:

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast by Robin McKinley
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. LeGuin
Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

Historical Fiction:

Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep
Nightjohn by Gary Paulson
Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene

Non- Fiction:

The Ultimate Weapon: The Race to Develop the Atomic Bomb by Edward T. Sullivan
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson
Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland by Sally M. Walker

Mystery and Adventure:

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

Biography/Memoir:

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust by Livia Bitton Jackson
Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI by Ryan Smithson
Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China during the Cultural Revolution by Moying Li
Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories about Growing up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka

Poetry:

You and Yours by Naomi Shihab Nye
The Trouble with Poetry and Other Poems by Billy Collins



Seventh Grade Required Summer Reading

During the summer, students are expected to read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. We will be using this novel to launch a discussion of our yearlong theme of nonconformity as soon as school begins in September. Below, you will find some discussion questions to help deepen your thinking about the novel—students, please discuss the questions with your parents and/or peers (no need to write!).

Tough Questions to Ponder (think about *The Outsiders* as you consider them)

1. Is conformity beneficial?
2. In what ways are loyalty and rivalry connected? Do these traits serve people well?
3. What creates prejudice and what can an individual do to overcome it?
4. How do people gain power?
5. What is family?

Book-specific Questions

1. Which character were you most able to relate to? Why?
2. In what ways does Ponyboy change over the course of the novel?
3. In what ways are you like a Greaser? In what way are you like a Soc?
4. Every book has some themes. Themes are big ideas, the so-what of the story, or what it's trying to teach you. REALLY IMPORTANT Note: A theme cannot be a word-- such as "violence." The theme would be what she is trying to teach you, what she is really saying, about violence. So, a theme is probably a complete sentence. What are some themes of *The Outsiders*? There are lots!
5. What did you notice about S.E. Hinton's writing style? Did you catch any figurative language? Foreshadowing? Symbolism? Repetition? What did you like/dislike about her craft?

