

Grade 7 Summer Reading List 2011 (Descriptions modified from various sources)

1. Blizzard's Wake by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

In March of 1941, when a severe blizzard suddenly hits Bismarck, North Dakota, a girl trying to save her stranded father and brother inadvertently helps the man who killed her mother four years before.

2. Ender's Game

A science fiction novel, set in a future where mankind is facing annihilation by an aggressive alien society, an insect-like race.

3. Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes

A 2004 Newbery Honor Book. A journal entry of a classmate killed in an accident sends 12 year old Martha on an unintended pilgrimage.

4. Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

5. Crash by Jerry Spinelli

A coming-of-age story follows 7th grader John "Crash" Coogan's gradual progression from an insensitive football jock to a mature, friend, brother and son.

6. The Secret School by Avi

In 1925, fourteen year old Ida Bidson secretly takes over as the teacher when the one-room schoolhouse in her remote Colorado area closes unexpectedly.

7. Travel Team by Mike Lupica

Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court-- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense.

Travel Team is an inspirational tale in the tradition of The Bad News Bears and Hoosiers. It will leave readers of all ages cheering.

8. The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

A Newbery Medal winner. The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

9. Rules by Cynthia Lord

A Newbery Honor Book. Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

10. Everlost by Neal Shusterman

Explore the limbo-land where the souls of children linger between life and death, in *Everlost*, book one in Neal Shusterman's *Skinjacker* trilogy.

11. The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

A fantasy novel awarded a prize from the **New York Herald Tribune** for best juvenile fiction. The book remains popular and is recognized as a classic in children's literature.

12. Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

The novel won the 1977 **Newbery Medal**. This novel explores life in Depression-era Mississippi as lived by an African-American family, the Logans. The Logans are fortunate; they own their own land in a time and place when many—black and white—are living as sharecroppers on various plantations and racially-motivated crimes are common. ****Please be advised this novel contains extremely sensitive language.****

13. Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

First published in 1719. The book is a fictional autobiography of the title character—a castaway who spends 28 years on a remote tropical island near Trinidad, encountering cannibals, captives and mutineers before being rescued.

14. Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Newbery Honor Book, 1935, Moose Flanagan's father takes a job as an electrician and guard at the high-security prison on Alcatraz Island near San Francisco. Moose, who is twelve, is struggling with all the changes in his own life. He must spend much of his free time taking care of his older sister, Natalie, who suffers from autism.

15. The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Series by Ann Brashares

A funky pair of dungarees and a strong friendship lies at the heart of this compelling coming-of-age novel. During the first summer they'll be separated from each other, four friends share a pair of second-hand jeans...and experience happiness, heartbreak, and all the complications of growing up. **You may choose any of the books in this series**