

## Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List

### **3 Willows** by Ann Brashares

The summer before high school three girls deal with disappointments and difficulties in this “sisterhood” book.

### **A Mango Shaped Space** by Wendy Mass

Thirteen-year-old Mia has a secret she has been keeping to herself her whole life. When she reads words and numbers and hears sounds, Mia sees colors and shapes in the air in front of her.

### **Alabama Moon** by Watt Key

A novel of survival and adventure that follows the main character a boy named Moon. A good choice for Gary Paulsen fans.

### **Cirque du Freak: the saga of Darren Shan** by Darren Shan

When Darren and his friend Steve sneak into an old theatre, Steve recognizes a famous vampire and professes his true desire to join him. Darren is faced with some terrible decisions about what to do to save his bloodthirsty friend.

### **Code Talker: a novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two** by Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

### **Crispin** by Avi

After being condemned for a crime he didn't commit, a timid thirteenth century boy has to flee a tiny village that's the only world he's ever known.

### **Destination Unexpected: Short Stories** by Don Gallo

The physical and emotional turmoil in the lives of teenagers is depicted in this collection of short stories from renowned authors.

### **Fairest** by Gail Carson Levine

In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent, meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ifori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.

### **Inkheart** by Cornelia Funke

Meggie's father has an unimaginable talent. When he reads a book, the characters come to life and live in his world. After he reads to life a terrible villain, his life and that of twelve-year-old Meggie are filled with danger.

### **Just Ella** by Margaret Paterson Haddix

Fifteen-year-old Ella discovers that life as a princess can be as confining as prison, but how can she escape from the powerful Prince Charming?

**Million-Dollar Throw** by Mike Lupica

Star quarterback, Nate Brodie thinks he may have the opportunity to solve all of his problems when he wins the chance to make a million dollars by throwing a football through a small target during halftime at a pro football game. Great book for Patriots fans!

**Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit** by Nahoko Uehashi

Balsa, a female warrior, accepts the task of protecting a young prince from demons and his father's assassins. Prince Chagum is the Moribito, the guardian of the sacred spirit. Together they must find in each other the source of strength they need to prevail. (2009 Batchelder Award Book and 2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

**Nation** by Terry Pratchett

After a tsunamim island native, Mau, and shipwreck survivor, Daphne, construct a nation that blends each other's customs, science, and faith in a multi-leveled novel of survival and politics. (Printz Honor Book and 2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

**Palace of Mirrors** by Margaret Paterson Haddix

The true princess Cecilia is forced into hiding until the evil forces that killed her parents are vanquished. But a bizarre twist of fate throws the truth into chaos and turns her world upside-down. Is she really who she thinks she is?

**Reaching Out** by Francisco Jiménez

In this poignantly written autobiography, Jimenez recounts his days as a young Mexican American student who is the first in his family to attend college. Against great odds, he is determined to complete his education. (2009 Belpre Author Honor Book and (2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

**Ruby Electric** by Theresa Nelson

Ruby works to come to terms with the absence of her father and her mother's new boyfriend.

**Scat** by Carl Hiaasen

This is an edge-of-your-seat eco-thriller! When their unpopular biology teacher goes missing in a suspicious fire during a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Nick and Marta don't buy the headmaster's excuse for her absence and decide to do some investigating of their own.

**The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman

A child marked for death by an ancient league of assassins escapes into an abandoned graveyard, where he is reared and protected by its spirit denizens. A delicious mix of murder, fantasy, humor and human longing, Gaiman's tale is told in magical, haunting prose. (2009 Newberry Medal Book and 2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

**The Green Glass** by Ellen Klages

While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers. (2007 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction)

**The London Eye Mystery** by Siobhan Dowd

Ted and his sister see their cousin, Salim, enter the capsule to ride the London Eye and follow his ride. To their shock, Salim doesn't exit with his fellow riders. This is a page-turning mystery.

(2009 American Library Association's Notable Children's Book List)

**The Traitor's Gate** by Avi

Fourteen-year-old John Huffam must unravel the mystery surrounding his father and figure out why so many people are spying on his family. Set in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this book is worth reading for its plot twists.

**The True Adventures of Charley Darwin** by Carolyn Meyer

Meyer's account of the famous naturalist, Charles Darwin, covers events in his life from age 9 to age 30. Readers follow Charles as a youngster suffering bullies and stammering when talking to girls, to his development of the concept of natural selection and his doubts about religion.

**The White Giraffe** by Lauren St. John

This novel takes readers deep into the African world. Myth becomes reality for a young girl, Martine, when she uses her healing gift to save her one true friend and discover her place in South Africa.

**Yellow Star** by Jennifer Roy

Through free verse, the author tells the story of Sylvia Perlmutter, one of the twelve children who survived the Nazi Holocaust during World War II in the ghetto in Lodz, Poland.

*Series*

*(Students may choose any book from the following series)*

**The Spartan Quest Series (*The Fire of Ares, Birth of a Warrior, Legacy of Blood*)**

This series follows Lysander in Ancient Greece. This is an excellent choice for those who enjoy action and vividly depicted battles.

**The Warriors Series** by Erin Hunter

Rusty, a young "kittypet" (house cat) yearns for adventure. When he's offered the chance to join the ThunderClan, one of the groups of feral cats in the area, he doesn't hesitate. Renamed Firepaw, he and the other ThunderClan members find themselves in the middle of a turf war.