# 7th Grade Summer Reading Project Book List

**Directions:** Select one book from the following list for your summer reading project! 
*Books can be borrowed from the [Mount Olive Library](#).*

## Realistic Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Million Dollar Throw</td>
<td>Mike Lupica</td>
<td>960L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When You Reach Me</td>
<td>Rebecca Stead</td>
<td>750L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Mango-Shaped Space</td>
<td>Wendy Mass</td>
<td>770L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out of my Mind</td>
<td>Sharon Draper</td>
<td>700L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slob</td>
<td>Ellen Potter</td>
<td>740L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Blue</td>
<td>Cynthia Lord</td>
<td>750L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonderstruck</td>
<td>Brian Selznick</td>
<td>830L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Life in Pink and Green</td>
<td>Lisa Greenwald</td>
<td>680L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Million Dollar Throw**
Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy. When he gets a chance to win a million dollars if he can complete a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriots game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

**When You Reach Me**
Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. Then a mysterious note arrives. The notes keep coming, and Miranda realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know.

**A Mango-Shaped Space**
Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift.

**Out of my Mind**
Considered by many to have a cognitive disability, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy is trapped inside her body, determined to make a mark in the world in spite of her physical limitations.

**Slob**
Twelve year old Owen is the fattest kid in school. But he's also a genius who invents cool contraptions. But genius or not, there is much Owen can't out-think. Like his gym coach, who's on a mission to humiliate him. Or the way his Oreos keep disappearing from his lunch. No matter how large he is on the outside, he doesn't have to feel small on the inside.

**Touch Blue**
The state of Maine plans to shut down her island's schoolhouse, which would force Tess's family to move to the mainland--and Tess to leave the only home she has ever known. Fortunately, the islanders have a plan: increase the numbers of students by having families take in foster children. Now Tess and her family are taking a chance on Aaron, a thirteen-year-old trumpet player who has been bounced from home to home. Will Tess's luck run out?

**Wonderstruck**
Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.

**My Life in Pink and Green**
Twelve-year-old Lucy Desberg is a natural problem-solver. At her family's struggling pharmacy, she has a line of makeover customers for every school dance. But all the makeup tips in the world won’t help save the business. If only she could find a way to make it the center of town again—a place where people want to spend time, like in the old days. Lucy dreams up a solution that could save the family business. But will Lucy's family stop fighting long enough to listen?
### Nonfiction

**Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon** by Steve Sheinkin  
This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.  
920L

**Chew on This** by Eric Schlosser  
Authors Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson unwrap the fast-food industry to bring you a behind-the-scenes look at a business that both feeds and feeds off the young. Find out what really goes on at your favorite restaurants—and what lurks between those sesame seed buns.  
1110L

**Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different** by Karen Blumenthal  
From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption, dropped out of college, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack. Then came the hallmark of his genius--his quest for perfection, his unique life approach, and his style that pushed all boundaries. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched.  
1110L

### Historical Fiction

**The Devil's Arithmetic** by Jane Yolen  
Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that's what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past . . . and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await.  
730L

**Crispin: At the Edge of the World** by Avi  
In this sequel to *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*, Crispin and Bear have set off to live as free men. But they don't get far before their past catches up with them. When Bear is badly wounded, it is up to Crispin to save them. To find freedom and safety, they may have to travel to the edge of the world—even if it means confronting death itself.  
730L

**Woods Runner** by Gary Paulsen  
In 1776, 13-year-old Samuel returns home from hunting in the woods to find his settlement burned and most of the settlers missing.  
870L

**Chains** by Laurie Halse Anderson  
As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, become the property of a cruel couple who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the person who can provide her with freedom.  
780L

**Code Talker** by Joseph Bruchac  
Throughout World War II, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and they saved countless American lives. Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life through the fictional tale of Ned, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker.  
910L
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Lexile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis</td>
<td>Pete Nelson</td>
<td>1260L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini</td>
<td>Sid Fleishman</td>
<td>940L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eragon</td>
<td>Christopher Paolini</td>
<td>710L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Red Pyramid</td>
<td>Rick Riordan</td>
<td>650L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uglies</td>
<td>Scott Westerfeld</td>
<td>770L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legend</td>
<td>Marie Lu</td>
<td>710L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Ember</td>
<td>Jeanne DuPrau</td>
<td>680L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Alchemyst: The Secrets of The Immortal Nicholas Flamel</td>
<td>Michael Scott</td>
<td>890L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Just after midnight on July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. The ship sank in 14 minutes. More than 1,000 men were thrown into shark-infested waters. Those who survived the fiery sinking—some injured, many without life jackets—struggled to stay afloat in shark-infested waters as they waited for rescue. 1260L

How did he walk through walls, escape drowning, and shatter iron chains that were tightly wrapped around him? The rare photos in this book might help you figure it out. But remember, a true magician never reveals his tricks...

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is a poor farm boy—until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire.

Since their mother's death, Carter and Sadie have become near strangers. While Sadie has lived with her grandparents in London, her brother has traveled the world with their father, the brilliant Egyptologist, Dr. Julius Kane. One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives.

Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from an Ugly into a stunning Pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a great time. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world -- and it isn't very pretty.

In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

The City of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever.

Nicholas Flamel lives. But only because he has been making the elixir of life for centuries. The secret of eternal life is hidden within the book he protects—the most powerful book that has ever existed. In the wrong hands, it will destroy the world. That's exactly what Dr. John Dee plans to do when he steals it. Humankind won't know what's happening until it's too late. And if the prophecy is right, Sophie and Josh Newman are the only ones with the power to save the world.
How to Rock a Book Talk
The No-Pain Way to Give a Presentation

Due Date: First Week of School

***Book Talk Builder + Presentation = A MAJOR 1st Marking Period Grade***

DO:
Choose a worthy book.
Intrigue your listeners.
Read a passage aloud.
Draw attention to the best parts.
Show the book.

DON’T:
Spoil the ending.
Book talk a book that you didn’t like.
Book talk a book you haven’t read.
Summarize the ENTIRE plot.
Talk too much...leave them curious!

The Formula

The Book:
Title
Author
Genre

The Hook:
Write a captivating, three-sentence description of the most exciting or interesting aspect of the book.

The Quick Look:
Setting
Plot/Conflict
Characters
Reasons to Read It

Tips for a Great Presentation

❖ Be calm. Try to speak in a natural and friendly voice.

❖ Be honest. Book talks are about sharing great books. Tell your audience what you liked best about your book! Don’t share a book you didn’t like.

❖ Be prepared. Practice your presentation! You can make notes to help you remember what you want to say.
# Book Talk Builder

(DUE the first week of school. Your presentation will be based on the information in this graphic organizer.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Book</th>
<th>The Hook</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td><strong>Directions:</strong> Write a captivating, three-sentence description of the most exciting aspect of the book. This is meant to entice the audience and make them want to read this book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td><strong>The Hook</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Genre:</td>
<td></td>
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## The Quick Look

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List Three Important Details about the Setting:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be Descriptive. Use Sensory Language!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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## Summarize the Plot in Two – Three Sentences:

Identify the TYPE of CONFLICT

| ____ | ____ | ____ |
| ____ | ____ | ____ |
| ____ | ____ | ____ |
### The Quick Look

List THREE Main Characters:
Choose ONE important character trait for each character and explain how the character exemplifies that trait.

1. 

2. 

3. 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character 1</th>
<th>Character 2</th>
<th>Character 3</th>
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### Concluding Statement

End your presentation with a BANG! This is your last chance to show your audience how much they will enjoy reading this book.

List THREE reasons why others would enjoy this book:

1. 

2. 

3. 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason 1</th>
<th>Reason 2</th>
<th>Reason 3</th>
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</thead>
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</table>
# 7th Grade Summer Reading Project Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Expert</th>
<th>Practitioner</th>
<th>Apprentice</th>
<th>Novice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comprehension and Insight</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrated profound insight and superior comprehension of text. --Incorporated numerous relevant details to illuminate the meaning of the text.</td>
<td>Demonstrated insight and full comprehension of text. --Incorporated specific details that illuminated the meaning of the text.</td>
<td>Demonstrated some insight and comprehension of text. --Incorporated some specific details to demonstrate understanding.</td>
<td>Demonstrated no insight and incomplete or incorrect comprehension of text. --Incorporated few details or did not communicate understanding of the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Written Expression</strong></td>
<td>Graphic organizer is complete, includes a myriad of interesting details, and shows excellent effort. --Writing demonstrates a unique voice, advanced fluency, and clear expression. --Few to no errors in mechanics.</td>
<td>Graphic organizer is complete, detailed, and shows effort. --Writing demonstrates voice, fluency, and clear expression. --Some minor errors in mechanics.</td>
<td>Graphic organizer is complete, includes some details, and shows some effort. --Writing demonstrates some voice, fluency, and mostly clear expression. --Some errors in mechanics.</td>
<td>Graphic organizer is incomplete; includes few details, and/or is sloppily or hastily completed. --Writing lacks voice and fluency; may be difficult to understand. --Numerous errors in mechanics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Presented all information in a clear, organized way. --Showed enthusiasm for text and engaged audience. --Spoke clearly with appropriate expression; effective eye-contact. --Can answer most questions asked by the audience.</td>
<td>Presented most of the information in a clear, organized way. --Showed enthusiasm for text and engaged majority of the audience. --Spoke clearly with some expression; good eye-contact. --Answered some questions asked by the audience.</td>
<td>Presented information in a disorganized way; difficult to understand some of the time. --Showed some enthusiasm for text and engaged some of the audience. --Spoke softly with little expression; fair eye-contact. --Answered few questions asked by the audience.</td>
<td>Presented poorly organized information; overall, very difficult to understand. --Showed little enthusiasm for the text; did not engage audience. --Inaudible; no expression; little eye-contact. --Unable to answer audience questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>