

## 7th Grade Recommended Reading List

[Absolutely Normal Chaos](#) / Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up quickly during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

[After the Last Dog Died: The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson and His 1912 Antarctic Expedition](#) / Carmen Bredeson

Describes the life and career of the Australian explorer, Sir Douglas Mawson, focusing on his 1912 scientific expedition to Antarctica.

[Alice in Wonderland](#) / by Lewis Carroll

A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters.

[America at Bat](#) / Paul Rosenthal

Examines how the game of baseball has evolved over the years and become woven into American culture and traditions, highlights baseball heroes, and presents trivia questions.

[Among the Hidden](#) / Margaret Peterson Haddix

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

[Anastasia Has the Answers](#) / Lois Lowry

Anastasia continues the perilous process of growing up as her thirteenth year involves her in conquering the art of rope climbing, playing Cupid for a recently widowed uncle, and surviving a crush on her gym teacher.

[The Andromeda Strain](#) / Michael Crichton

For five days, American scientists struggle to identify and control a deadly new form of life.

[Angels Watching Over Me](#) / Lurlene McDaniel

Cynical Leah Lewis-Hall, stuck in the hospital alone during the holidays, learns about the miracles of love, faith, and angels when she meets the loving family of her roommate, a young Amish girl named Rebekah.

[Anne of Green Gables](#) / L.M. Montgomery

An adventurous young orphan goes to live on a farm with an elderly brother and sister.

[The Bad Beginning](#) / Lemony Snicket

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

[Baseball in April and Other Stories](#) / Gary Soto

A collection of eleven short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California.

[Bearstone](#) / Will Hobbs

A troubled Indian boy goes to live with an elderly rancher whose caring ways help the boy become a man.

[Black Star, Bright Dawn](#) / Scott O'Dell

Bright Dawn must face the challenge of the Iditarod dog sled race alone when her father is injured

[Boy: Tales of Childhood](#) / Roald Dahl.

A collection of humorous anecdotes from the author's childhood, including his summer vacations in Norway and

life at an English boarding school.

[The Breadwinner](#) / Deborah Ellis

Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

[Call It Courage](#) / Armstrong Sperry

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

[The Call of the Wild](#) / Jack London

The 1903 story about the adventures of Buck, a part St. Bernard, part Scotch shepherd, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike goldfields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

[Cast Two Shadows : The American Revolution in the South](#) / Ann Rinaldi

In South Carolina in 1780, fourteen-year-old Caroline sees the Revolutionary War take a terrible toll among her family and friends and comes to understand the true nature of war.

[The Cay](#) / Theodore Taylor

Philip, an adolescent white boy who is blinded in a torpedo attack at sea during World War II, acquires a new type of vision, courage, and love when he is stranded on a tiny Caribbean island with Timothy, a kind, elderly black man.

[Cheaper by the Dozen](#) / Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey

Presents a memoir by two siblings from the Gilbreth clan in which they look at the lives of their parents, Frank Bunker Gilbreth and Lillian Moller Gilbreth, discuss Frank and Lillian's careers as industrial engineers and work with scientific management, and share the adventures the couple encountered raising a family of twelve children.

[The Concrete Wave: The History of Skateboarding](#) / Michael Brooke

An illustrated history of skateboarding, from 1959 through the 1990s, featuring interviews with some of the world's top skaters, and including true stories of the sport.

[A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court](#) / Mark Twain

Nineteenth-century mechanic Hank Morgan suffers a blow to the head and wakes up in King Arthur's Court where he tries to introduce modern technology and political ideas to the inhabitants.

[Crash](#) / Jerry Spinelli

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

[A Day No Pigs Would Die](#) / Robert Newton Peck.

To a thirteen-year-old Vermont farm boy whose father slaughters pigs for a living, maturity comes early as he learns "doing what's got to be done," especially regarding his pet pig who cannot produce a litter.

[Dear Mr. Henshaw](#) / Beverly Cleary

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

[A Dog's Life](#) / by Peter Mayle

The memoirs of Boy, a shaggy dog of unknown origins, who describes his life in the village of Provence in France

[Dragondrums](#) / Anne McCaffrey

When his boy soprano voice begins to change, Piemur is drafted by Masterharper Robinton to help with political work and is sent on missions that lead him into unusual and sometimes dangerous adventures.

[Dragonwings](#) / Laurence Yep

In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

[The Egypt Game](#) / Zilpha Keatley Snyder

A group of children, entranced with Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies.

[Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery](#) / Russell Freedman

A biography of the first wife of a president to have a public life and career of her own.

[The Face on the Milk Carton](#) / Caroline B. Cooney

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.

[Flush](#) / Carl Hiaasen - With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

[Freak the Mighty](#) / Rodman Philbrick

At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, who has a learning disability, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

[Gathering Blue](#) / Lois Lowry

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians

[A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32](#) / Joan W. Blos

The journal of a fourteen-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend.

[Geronimo: Apache Freedom Fighter](#) / Spring Hermann

This story examines the life of the Apache chief Geronimo, who led one of the last Indian uprisings.

[A Girl Named Disaster](#) / Nancy Farmer

While fleeing from Mozambique to Zimbabwe to escape an unwanted marriage, Nhamo, an eleven-year-old Shona girl, struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

[Gregor the Overlander](#) / Suzanne Collins -

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

[Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince](#) / J.K. Rowling - Novice wizard Harry Potter, now sixteen-years-old, begins his sixth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the midst of the battle between good and evil which has heated up with the return of the Dark Lord Voldemort.

[Here Today](#) / Ann M. Martin - In 1963, when her flamboyant mother abandons the family to pursue her dream of becoming an actress, eleven-year-old Ellie Dingman takes charge of her younger siblings, while also trying to deal with her outcast status in school and frightening acts of prejudice toward the "misfits" that live on her street.

[Hoot](#) / Carl Hiaasen

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

[Hope Was Here](#) / Joan Bauer

When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

[The House of the Scorpion](#) / Nancy Farmer -

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

[Hush](#) / Jacqueline Woodson -

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

[Jackaroo](#) / Cynthia Voigt

When hard times among the people revive old stories of the hero Jackaroo, an innkeeper's daughter follows her own quest to unlock the secret reality behind the legend.

[Jip: His Story](#) / Katherine Paterson

While living on a Vermont poor farm during 1855 and 1856, Jip learns his identity and that of his mother and comes to understand how he arrived at this place.

[A Journey to the Center of the Earth](#) / Jules Verne

Three men dare to adventure into a subterranean world full of danger and beauty. They discover many unusual things on their trip to the Earth's mysterious core.

[Julie of the Wolves](#) / Jean Craighead George

Escaping from an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl gets lost on the Alaskan tundra and is befriended by a wolf pack.

[The Jungle Books](#) / Rudyard Kipling

The adventures of a young boy, Mowgli, who is reared by a pack of wolves, and the wild animals of the jungle. Also includes other short stories set in India.

[Keeper](#) / Mal Peet -

South American journalist Paul Faustino begins his interview with World Cup Soccer star El Gato and learns a fantastic story of a young, lonely boy growing up in the middle of a rain forest who wandered upon a mysterious soccer field and an apparition that appeared to him daily.

[Keystone Kids](#) / John R. Tunis

When two young brothers join the Brooklyn Dodgers, one becomes team manager and is faced with the task of uniting a team rife with dissension and prejudice against the new Jewish rookie catcher.

[Lily's Crossing](#) / Patricia Reilly Giff

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

[The Lost Years of Merlin](#) / T.A. Barron

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

[Lyddie](#) / Katherine Paterson

Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

[Marie Antoinette, Princess of Versailles](#) / Kathryn Lasky

In 1769, thirteen-year-old Maria Antonia Josepha Johanna, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa, begins a journal chronicling her life at the Austrian court and her preparations for her future role as queen of France.

[Millicent Min: Girl Genius](#) / Lisa Yee -

In a series of journal entries, eleven-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother's departure, and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.

[My Brother Sam Is Dead](#) / James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

Recounts the tragedy that strikes the Meeker family during the Revolution when one son joins the rebel forces while the rest of the family tries to stay neutral in a Tory town.

[Old Yeller](#) / Fred Gipson

In the late 1860s in the Texas hill country, a big yellow dog and a fourteen-year-old boy form a close, loving relationship.

[Olive's Ocean](#) / Kevin Henkes -

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

[The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place](#) / E.L. Konigsburg -

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

[The Ox-Bow Incident](#) / Walter Van Tilburg Clark

A posse captures and hangs three men believed to be guilty of cattle rustling and murder, only to learn later that the men were innocent.

[Petey](#) / Ben Mikaelson

In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life.

[P.S. Longer Letter Later](#) / Paula Danziger & Ann M. Martin

Twelve-year-old best friends Elizabeth and Tara-Starr continue their friendship through letter-writing after Tara-Starr's family moves to another state.

[Rats](#) / Paul Zindel

When mutant rats threaten to take over Staten Island, which has become a huge landfill, fourteen-year-old Sarah and her younger brother Mike try to figure out how to stop them.

[Redwall](#) / Brian Jacques

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

[Revenge of the Witch](#) / Joseph Delaney -

Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties."

[The Road to There: Mapmakers and Their Stories](#) / Val Ross -

Describes the lives and inspirations of several important mapmakers throughout history, such as Cheng Ho, Captain James Cook, and Phyllis Pearsall, and includes map reproductions.

[The Runner](#) / Cynthia Voigt

As a dedicated runner, a teenage boy has always managed to distance himself from other people until the experience of coaching one of his teammates on the track team gradually helps him see the value of giving and receiving.

[Saffy's Angel](#) / Hilary McKay -

After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special memento of her past.

[Search for the Shadowman](#) / Joan Lowery Nixon

While working on a genealogy project for his seventh grade history class, Andy Bonner becomes determined to solve the mystery surrounding a distant relative who was accused of stealing the family fortune.

[Shiloh](#) / by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

[The Sign of the Beaver](#) / Elizabeth George Speare

Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

[A Single Shard](#) / Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

[The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants](#) / Ann Brashares

Carmen decides to discard an old pair of jeans, but Tibby, Lena, and Bridget think they are great and decide that whoever the pants fit best will get them. When the jeans fit everyone perfectly, a sisterhood and a memorable summer begin.

[Sliding into Home](#) / Dori Hillestad Butler

When thirteen-year-old Joelle, a star baseball player, moves to a new town where the only option for girls is softball, she starts an all-girl baseball league against the wishes of her school coaches and others in the town.

[Souder](#) / William H. Armstrong

A young African-American boy learns the pain of humiliation and anger when his father is given an unjust jail sentence for stealing a ham from a white man. Learning to read and to discover that things do not die, but become part of other things, brings the youngster new hope.

[Stitches](#) / Glen Huser -

Travis, a middle-school student who wants to become a professional puppeteer, has endured years of torment from a trio of bullies, but he finds himself fighting for his life when the harassment turns to violence just after the ninth-grade dance.

[Stowaway](#) / Karen Hesse

A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook.

[A Summer Life](#) / Gary Soto

The poet recreates the life he experienced as a Chicano growing up in California's Central Valley.

[Surviving the Applewhites](#) / by Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

[Take It to the Hoop](#) / Sandra Steen and Susan Steen

Traces the development of women's basketball, from its beginning in the 1890s through the formation of the Women's National Basketball Association in 1997.

[Tales from Shakespeare](#) / Charles and Mary Lamb

Retells for children the stories of twenty of Shakespeare's plays, including "King Lear," "Romeo and Juliet," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

[Tangerine](#) / Edward Bloor

Paul Fisher, a stellar soccer player despite being legally blind, finally comes into his own when his family moves to the strange town of Tangerine, Florida.

[That Was Then, This Is Now](#) / S.E. Hinton

Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate

[This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie](#) / Elizabeth Partridge

An illustrated biography of Woody Guthrie, composer of "This Land Is Your Land," and over three thousand other folk songs and ballads, telling about his travels throughout the U.S. in the first half of the twentieth century, and discussing how his experiences influenced his music.

[This Side of Paradise](#) / Steven L. Layne

After his father begins working for the mysterious Eden Corporation, Jack uncovers a sinister plot that threatens the existence of his entire family.

[Tiger Eyes](#) / Judy Blume

Resettled in New Mexico with her mother and brother, Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a holdup of his 7-Eleven store in Atlantic City.

[The Transall Saga](#) / Gary Paulsen

While backpacking in the desert, thirteen-year-old Mark falls into a tube of blue light and is transported into a more primitive world, where he must use his knowledge and skills to survive.

[Travels with Charley : In Search of America](#) / John Steinbeck.

Contains observations about life and descriptions of nature as described by Steinbeck as he traveled from coast to coast at sixty years of age with his French poodle, Charley.

[Treasure Island](#) / Robert Louis Stevenson

While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune/

[The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle](#) / Avi

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger on a voyage from England to America in 1832, must take serious matters into her own hands when she learns that the captain is murderous.

[Tuck Everlasting](#) / Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

[Up a Road Slowly](#) / Irene Hunt

After her mother's death, Julie goes to live with Aunt Cordelia, a spinster schoolteacher, where she experiences many emotions and changes as she grows from seven to eighteen.

[The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963: A Novel](#) / Christopher Paul Curtis.

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

[We Were There, Too! : Young People in U.S. History](#) / Phillip Hoose

Draws from first-person accounts, journals, interviews and other primary sources to tell the true stories of over seventy young people from a variety of cultures who played a role in the making of the United States, including explorers, patriots, rebels, slaves, miners, and activists.

[The Westing Game](#) / by Ellen Raskin

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.

[Where the Red Fern Grows: The Story of Two Dogs and a Boy](#) / by Wilson Rawls.

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

[The Whipping Boy](#) / Sid Fleischman

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

[A Wrinkle in Time](#) / Madeleine L'Engle

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world

[The Yearling](#) / Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.

[You Come To : Favorite Poems for All Ages](#) / Robert Frost

Presents over fifty poems by Robert Frost, selected by the poet especially to be read aloud, including "Acquainted with the Night," "A Patch of Old Snow," "Not of School Age," and "Mending Wall."