

**Bulkeley Middle School  
Summer Reading  
2011**



## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Annotated List**

*Annotations from the Library of Congress*

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**Alexander, Lloyd. *The Book of Three.***

Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil.

**Allen, Thomas B. *George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War.***

A biography of Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever, 1793.***

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.

**Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance.***

Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, Endurance, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

**Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker.***

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.

**Bloor, Edward. *Tangerine.***

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

**Brenaman, Miriam. *Evvy's Civil War*.**

In Virginia in 1860, on the verge of the Civil War, fourteen-year-old Evvy chafes at the restrictions that her society places on both women and slaves.

**Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*.**

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

**Creech, Sharon. *Love That Dog*.**

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*.**

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.

**Duble, Kathleen Benner. *The Sacrifice*.**

Two sisters, aged ten and twelve, are accused of witchcraft in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1692 and await trial in a miserable prison while their mother desperately searches for some way to obtain their freedom.

**Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner*.**

Parvana, whose father was arrested by the Taliban--the radical religious faction controlling Afghanistan--and whose family lives in one room of a bombed-out apartment building, must disguise herself as a boy to work and support her family.

**Ferris, Jean. *Love Among the Walnuts*.**

Born and raised in isolation in a wealthy, eccentric family, Sandy is shocked when he, his parents, and their servants become victims of a vicious plot by his greedy uncles to incapacitate them and take their money.

**Fleischman, John. *Phineas Gage : A Gruesome but True Story about Brain Science*.**

Tells the story of Phineas Gage, a railroad construction foreman who survived eleven years after an accident in which a thirteen-pound iron rod shot through his brain.

**Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline*.**

Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

**Griffin, Adele. *Where I Want to Be.***

Two teenaged sisters, separated by death but still connected, work through their feelings of loss over the closeness they shared as children that was later destroyed by one's mental illness, and finally make peace with each other.

**Hiaasen, Carl. *Hoot.***

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.

**Holt, Kimberly Willis. *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town.***

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world.

**Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira.***

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

**Key, Watt. *Alabama Moon.***

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.

**Lord, Cynthia. *Rules.***

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.

**Lowry, Lois. *Gathering Blue.***

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.

**Lowry, Lois. *The Giver.***

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

**Lowry, Lois. *The Messenger.***

In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

**Mazer, Harry. *A Boy at War.***

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

**McKernan, Victoria. *Shackleton's Stowaway.***

A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackborow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship Endurance was crushed by ice, endured many hardships.

**Montgomery, Sy. *The Golden Moon Bear: Science and Adventure in the Asian Tropics.***

Introduces the research involved in tracking and studying a previously unknown species of bear in Southeast Asia as a scientist and her assistant go into the jungle and visit remote villages to find out all they can about this newly discovered animal.

**Murphy, Jim. *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.***

Recreates the devastation rendered to the city of Philadelphia in 1793 by an incurable disease known as yellow fever, detailing the major social and political events as well as the time's medical beliefs and practices.

**Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn.***

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

**Paterson, Katherine. *Jacob Have I Loved.***

Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.

**Paulsen, Gary. *How Angel Peterson Got His Name and Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports.***

Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

**Pullman, Philip. *The Amber Spyglass.***

Lyra and Will find themselves at the center of a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lyra's father, Lord Asriel.

**Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass.***

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

**Pullman, Philip. *The Subtle Knife*.**

As the boundaries between worlds begin to dissolve, Lyra and her daemon help Will Parry in his search for his father and for a powerful, magical knife.

**Rees, Celia. *Pirates! The True and Remarkable Adventures of Minerva Sharpe and Nancy Kington, Female Pirates*.**

In 1722, after arriving in Jamaica where she is to be married off, sixteen-year-old Nancy Kington escapes with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe, and together they become pirates traveling the world in search of treasure.

**Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Esperanza Rising*.**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

**Smelcer, John. *The Trap*.**

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

**Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*.**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

**Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*.**

Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

**Turner, Pamela S. *Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes*.**

A group of talented veterinarians, hoping to preserve this endangered species, present a study of the effects of human exposure on the mountain gorillas of Rwanda and Uganda.

**Vande Velde, Vivian. *Heir Apparent*.**

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

**Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It*.**

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

**White, Ruth. *Tadpole*.**

In rural Kentucky in 1955, Serilda Collins, single mother of four lively girls, discovers that her orphaned nephew is being subjected to brutality.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *Hush*.**

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