

Summer Reading 2020

Grade 7



Why in the World would I want to read in the summer???

- Summer reading keeps our minds active.
- Summer reading helps us to keep our reading skills from declining.
- Summer reading helps to instill a love of reading.
- Summer reading is something the whole family can do together.

The summer reading theme for students entering 7th grade in September 2018 is **perseverance**. **Perseverance** is a character trait that is essential to being successful in life. Please select one of the reading books from the attached list, or choose any book with theme of **perseverance**, and answer the questions below.

Date Due: within the first two weeks of school

You may share this work in the form of a Google Doc with your ELA teacher(s), if you would prefer to type your answers. Our school email addresses are:

Mrs. Bilentschuk mbilentschuk@drregional.org

Mr. Hamilton rhamilton@drregional.org

Mrs. Mitnik cmitnik@drregional.org

Name _____

A. Essential questions. (Please answer in complete sentences.)

1. In your own words, please define perseverance.

2. How do you think you have used perseverance in your life?

3. How have you seen others use perseverance in their lives?

B. Answer the following questions about the book that you read this summer:

1) Title:

Author:

2) Main character(s):

- 3) How did the character(s) in the story use words and actions to demonstrate **perseverance**?

- 4) Briefly summarize the story that you read.

- 5) Would you recommend that others read this book? Rate this book on a five-star system. For example, one star means that you would not recommend the book to anyone else to read, and five stars means that you would highly recommend that others read this book. Explain why you gave the book this rating.

I give this book _____ stars because

The seventh grade ELA teachers and students from the 2019/2020 school year highly recommend the following books. (Summaries are copied from Goodreads.):



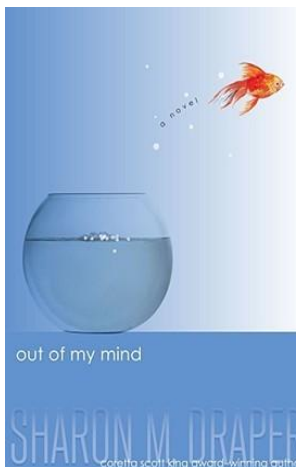
Empty, by Suzanne Weyn

It's the near future - the very near future - and the fossil fuels are running out. No gas. No oil. (Which means no driving.) No heat. Supermarkets are empty. Malls have shut down. Life has just become more difficult than we ever knew it could be. Nobody expected the end to come this fast. And in the small town of Spring Valley, decisions that once seemed easy are quickly becoming a matter of life and death. There is hope - there has to be hope - just as there are also sacrifices that need to be made. Teenagers like Nicki, Tom, and Leila may find what they need to survive, but their lives are never going to be the same again.



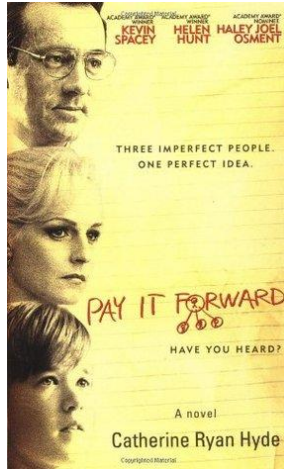
Ghost, by Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?



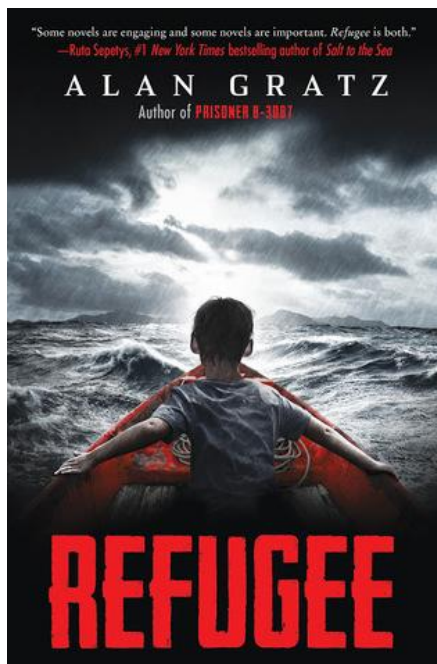
Out of My Mind, by Sharon M. Draper

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.



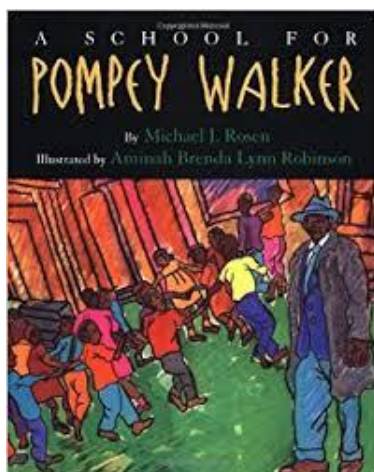
Pay it Forward, by Catherine Ryan Hyde

Pay It Forward is a wondrous and moving novel about Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy in a small California town who accepts the challenge that his teacher gives his class, a chance to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world for the better -- and to put that plan into action. When Trevor is assigned a project in school, he truly believes he can make a difference in the world. After one setback, Trevor doubts that he will be successful. Surprisingly, he finds himself suddenly famous, but on the happiest day of Trevor's life...



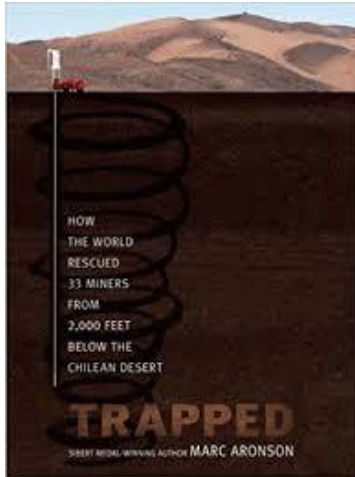
Refugee, by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world... Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America... Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe... All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. For each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.



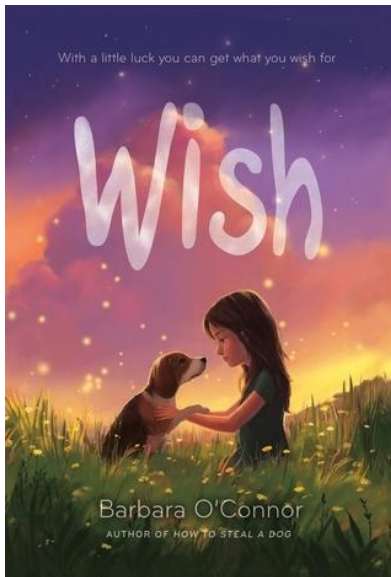
A School for Pompey Walker, by Michael Rosen

Pompey Walker dreams of going to school, but as a slave in the 1830s, this is only a dream, until slavery-hating Jeremiah Walker, son-in-law of the plantation owner, buys Pompey's freedom. Together, they devise and carry out a plan to get money to found a school for black children. Inspired by a newspaper account of an Ohio man's experiences, as well as the recollections of former slaves, this tale recounts an unforgettable and harrowing journey of the human spirit.



Trapped, by Marc Aronson

In early August 2010, the unthinkable happened when a mine collapsed in Copiapó, Chile, and 33 miners were trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources and increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention and rejoiced in the amazing spirit and determination of the miners. What could have been a terrible tragedy became an amazing story of survival.



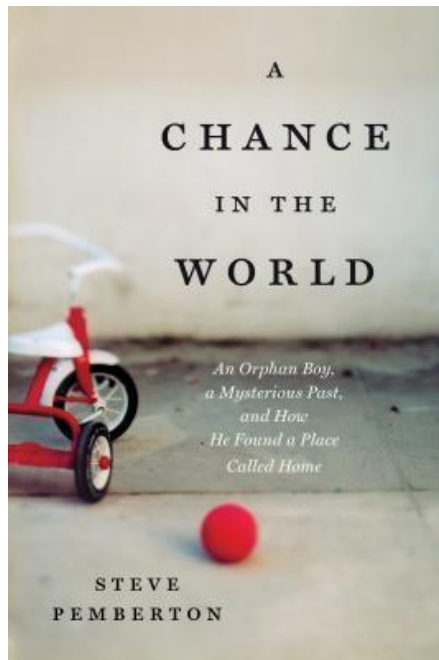
Wish, by Barbara O'Connor

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.



Wonder, by R. J. Palacio

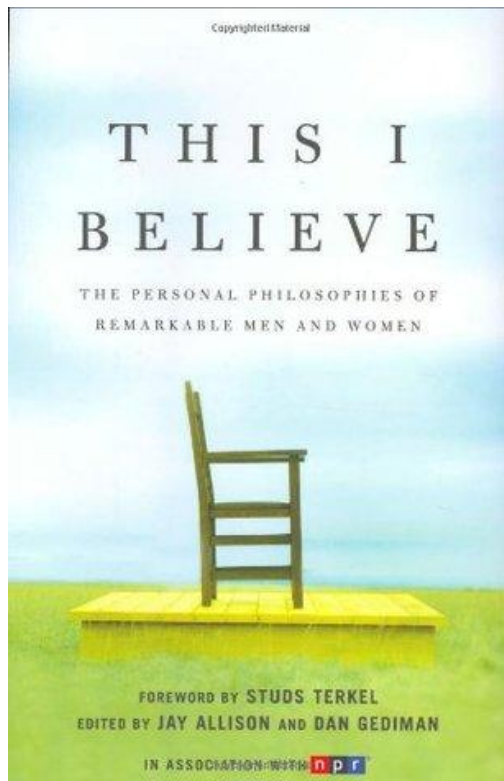
August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. WONDER, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others.



A Chance in the World: An Orphan Boy, a Mysterious Past, and How He Found a Place Called Home, by Steve Pemberton

From the day he is five-years-old and dropped off at his foster home of the next eleven years, Stephen is mentally and physically tortured. No one in the system can help him. No one can tell him if he has a family. No one can tell him why, with obvious African-American features, he has the last name of Klakowicz.

Along the way, a single faint light comes only from a neighbor's small acts of kindness and caring—and a box of books. From one of those books he learns that he has to fight in any way he can—for victory is in the battle. His victory is to excel in school.



This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women, by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman

In this thought provoking book, which was based on an NPR series, 80 essayists use the three little title words as a jumping-off point to a discussion of their deepest personal beliefs. Featuring a well-known list of contributors--including Isabel Allende, Colin Powell, Gloria Steinem, William F. Buckley Jr., Penn Jillette, Bill Gates, and John Updike--the collection also contains essays by a Brooklyn lawyer; **a part-time hospital clerk from Rehoboth, Massachusetts**; a woman who sells Yellow Pages advertising in Fort Worth, Texas; and a man who serves on the state of Rhode Island's parole board.



The Invisible World, by Suzanne Weyn

Elsabeth James has powers she doesn't fully understand. She is descended from midwives, mind readers, and a fortune-teller who was put to death because she foresaw the death of Mary, Queen of Scots. She can hear people's thoughts and sometimes see what they see. She has supernatural gifts, but not evil ones.

When Elsabeth sails with her sister, father, and governess to America, however, she does not foresee that their ship will be wrecked in a storm. Alone for the first time in her life, she washes up on a South Carolina plantation, where she falls in love with a boy she meets there and learns magic and healing from an unexpected source.

As her powers grow, her stay is cut short, and she is sent as a servant to Salem, Massachusetts. There she accidentally allows an evil spirit to enter the village. When

a group of girls start to say they're bewitched and accuse villagers of witchcraft, Elsabeth must find some way to save herself and the boy she loves.

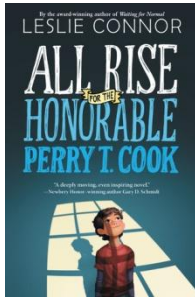


Shadow, by Michael Morpurgo (Author of War Horse)

With the horrors of war bearing down on them, fourteen-year-old Aman and his mother are barely surviving in an Afghan cave. The only comfort Aman has is Shadow, the loyal spaniel who shows up from places unknown, it seems, just when he needs him the most. Aman, his mother, and Shadow finally leave the cave in hopes of escaping to England. At a checkpoint during their journey, Shadow runs away after being shot at by police. Aman and his mother escape, but life in England does not bring them the freedom they'd hoped for. Aman and his mother must now rely on a classmate, Matt, his grandpa, and the hope of Shadow's return.

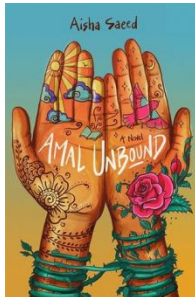
7th Grade - Perseverance

Here are some books you might want to consider. All of these titles were published recently and will be available in paperback before the end of June, 2020. (Summaries are copied from Goodreads)



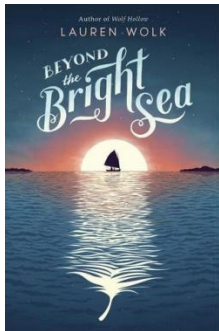
All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook, by Leslie Connor

Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth—and Perry is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. When Perry moves to the “outside” world, he feels trapped. Desperate to be reunited with his mom, Perry goes on a quest for answers about her past crime. As he gets closer to the truth, he will discover that love makes people resilient no matter where they come from . . . but can he find a way to tell everyone what home truly means?



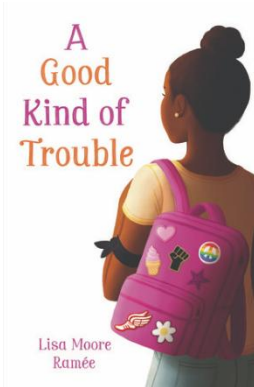
Amal Unbound, by Aisha Saeed (read the first few chapters at [THIS LINK](#))

Life is quiet and ordinary in Amal’s Pakistani village, but she had no complaints, and besides, she’s busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher one day. Her dreams are temporarily dashed when—as the eldest daughter—she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Amal is upset, but she doesn’t lose hope and finds ways to continue learning. Then the unimaginable happens—after an accidental run-in with the son of her village’s corrupt landlord, Amal must work as his family’s servant to pay off her own family’s debt.



Beyond the Bright Sea, by Lauren Wolk

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift on a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.



Good Kind of Trouble, by Lisa Moore Ramee

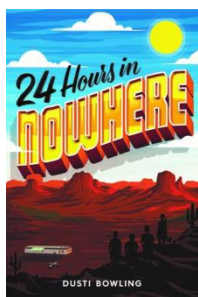
Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. (Oh, and she'd also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead.) But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough. Wait, *what*? Shay's sister, Hana, is involved in Black Lives Matter, but Shay doesn't think that's for her. After experiencing a powerful protest, though, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking. She starts wearing an armband to school in support of the Black Lives movement.

Soon everyone is taking sides. And she is given an ultimatum. Shay is scared to do the wrong thing (and even more scared to do the right thing), but if she doesn't face her fear, she'll be forever tripping over the next hurdle. Now that's trouble, for real.



No Fixed Address, by Susin Nielsen

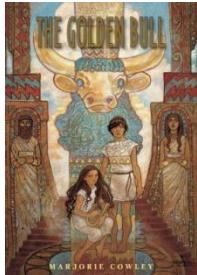
Felix Knuttson, twelve, is an endearing kid with an incredible brain for trivia. His mom Astrid is loving but unreliable; she can't hold onto a job, or a home. When they lose their apartment in Vancouver, they move into a camper van, just for August, till Astrid finds a job. September comes, they're still in the van; Felix must keep "home" a secret and give a fake address in order to enroll in school. Luckily, he finds true friends. As the weeks pass and life becomes grim, he struggles not to let anyone know how precarious his situation is. When he gets to compete on a national quiz show, Felix is determined to win -- the cash prize will bring them a home. Their luck is about to change! But what happens is not at all what Felix expected.



24 Hours in Nowhere, by Dusti Bowling

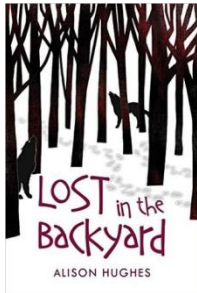
Welcome to Nowhere, Arizona, the least livable town in the United States. For Gus, a bright 13-year-old with dreams of getting out and going to college, life there is made even worse by Bo Taylor, Nowhere's biggest, baddest bully. When Bo tries to force Gus to eat a dangerously spiny cactus, Rossi Scott, one of the best racers in Nowhere, comes to his rescue—but in return she has to give Bo her prized dirt bike. Determined to buy it back, Gus agrees to go searching for gold in Dead Frenchman Mine, joined by his old friends Jessie Navarro and Matthew Dufort, and Rossi herself. As they hunt for treasure, narrowly surviving everything from cave-ins to mountain lions, they bond over shared stories of how hard life in Nowhere is—and they realize this adventure just may be their way out.

The 3 books listed next are not as recent, but they are available as e-Books for FREE through August 31, 2020 at [THIS LINK](#). Select TeenBookCloud, then click “Search” at the top right of the screen to find a book. Here are titles in TeenBookCloud about PERSEVERANCE:



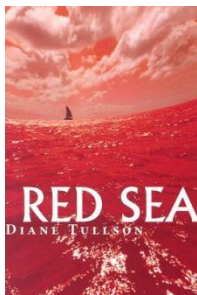
The Golden Bull, by Marjorie Cowley

It is circa 2600 BC in ancient Mesopotamia during a terrible drought, and Jomar and Zefa's father must send his children away to the city of Ur because he can no longer feed them. At fourteen, Jomar is old enough to apprentice with Sidah, a master goldsmith for the temple of the moongod, but there is no place for Zefa in Sidah's household. Zefa, a talented but untrained musician, is forced to play her music and sing for alms on the streets of Ur. Marjorie Cowley vividly imagines the intrigues, and harsh struggle for survival in ancient Mesopotamia.



Lost in the Backyard, by Alison Hughes

Flynn hates the outdoors. Always has. He barely pays attention in his Outdoor Ed class. He has no interest in doing a book report on Lost in the Barrens. He doesn't understand why anybody would want to go hiking or camping. But when he gets lost in the wilderness behind his parents' friends' house, it's surprising what he remembers—insulate your clothes with leaves, eat snow to stay hydrated, build a shelter, eat lichen—and how hopelessly inept he is at survival techniques.



Red Sea, by Diane Tullson

Fourteen-year-old Libby didn't want to go on a year long sailing adventure with her mother and her stepfather, Duncan, and she isn't about to let them forget it. Traveling through the Red Sea, Libby causes them to be late and make a dangerous crossing alone. When modern-day pirates attack, Duncan is killed and Libby's mother is left seriously injured and unconscious. Libby is left alone on a crippled boat to find safety and help for her mother.