



Summer Reading 2021

Grade 7

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

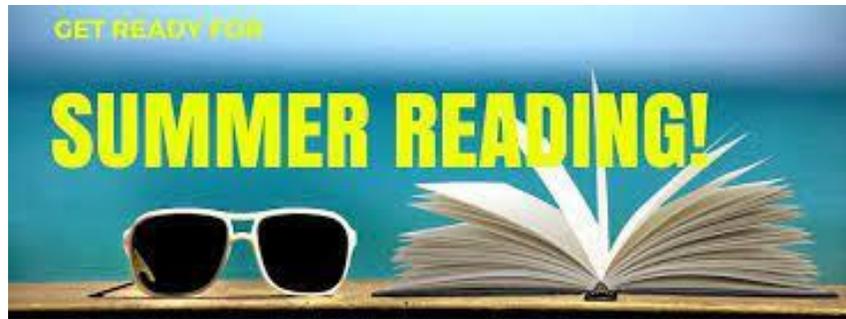
- Summer reading keeps your mind active.
- Summer reading helps you to keep strengthening your reading skills.
- Summer reading helps to instill a love of reading.
- Summer reading is something the whole family can do together.



The summer reading theme for students entering 7th grade in September 2021 is “perseverance.” **Perseverance is continued effort toward a goal, despite challenges, difficulties, and failures.** This character trait is essential to being successful in life.

Please read any book of your choice that has the theme of **perseverance**. (We have provided some suggestions, if you need them.) The expectation is that once you finish reading your book, you will answer the attached questions.

Date Due: within the first two weeks of school



You have three options for how to complete this assignment.

1. You may make a copy of this Google Doc and then share with your ELA teacher(s). If you don't know who your ELA teacher(s) will be next year, please share it with all three teachers. Our school email addresses are: Mrs. Bilentschuk mbilentschuk@drregional.org Mr. Hamilton rhamilton@drregional.org and Mrs. Mitnik cmitnik@drregional.org.
2. You may complete this assignment through a [Google Form](#).
3. You may complete this assignment by writing it out on paper.

We expect that you will choose a book that is interesting to you. The format of the book doesn't matter to us. Audio books (paired with text to follow along), eBooks, and some graphic novels are just as suitable as traditional novels on paper. Please just make sure that the theme of the book you select is **perseverance** and you are choosing a book at your "just right" reading level.

Summer Reading 2021: Grade 7

Description of Perseverance: Perseverance is continued effort toward a goal, despite challenges, difficulties, and failures. Persevering is about more than just putting in hard work. To persevere, one must be willing to have the **confidence** to fail then try again, the **courage** to face the risk of failing, and the **ability to communicate goals** to yourself and others. Through the process of persevering, honor, respect, and responsibility grow and strengthen a leader's ability to lead and follow others.

Essential question: What does it mean to persevere?

1. Above, we told you that a definition of perseverance is: *continued effort toward a goal, despite challenges, difficulties, and failures.*

In your own words, please define perseverance. (one sentence)

* (OPTIONAL) Attach a picture or meme of something that you think demonstrates the character trait perseverance. Remember your audience and make sure whatever you attach is appropriate for your teachers to see.

2. How do you think **you** have used perseverance in your life? (2-3 sentences)

3. How have you seen **other people** use perseverance in their lives? (Give at least one example; 2-3 sentences)

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) Summarize the story that you read. The expectation is that you write a well-written paragraph of 5-7 sentences. **Remember your 5 W's!**

5 W's & H – Questions to guide your summarizing

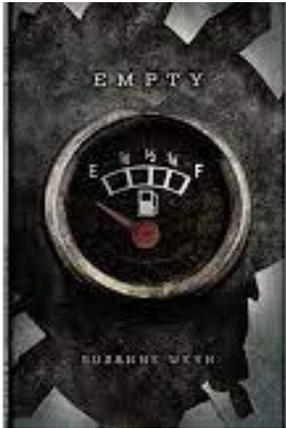
1. Who? Who is the main character of the story? Who is doing most of the action? ...
2. What? What happened? ...
3. Where? Did the story take place in a specific town, country, or region?
4. When? Did the story take place at a specific time or during a period of time?
5. Why? Why did the "what" happen? ...
6. How? How did the "what" happen?

(Start your summary here if you are typing, or write on the back of this page or on another piece of paper if you are writing this out by hand.)

5) Would you recommend that other 7th graders 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, and five stars means that you would highly recommend that other students your age read this book. Explain why you gave the book this rating.

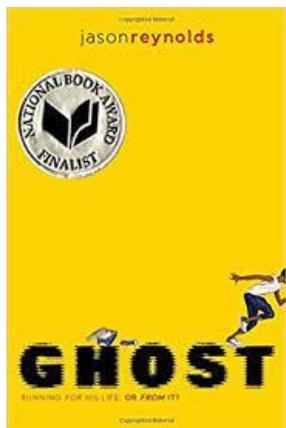
I give this book _____ stars because _____

The seventh grade ELA teachers and students from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years highly recommend the following books. (Summaries are copied from Goodreads.)



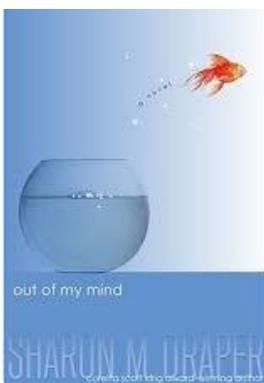
Empty, by Suzanne Weyn

It's the near future - the very near future - and 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.



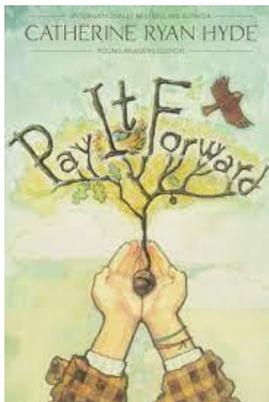
Ghost, by Jason Reynolds

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

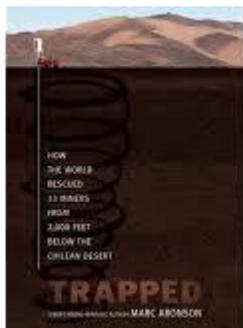
Pay It Forward is a wondrous and moving novel about Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy in a small California town who accepts the challenge that his teacher gives his class, a chance to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world for the better -- and to put that plan into action. 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 Gatz

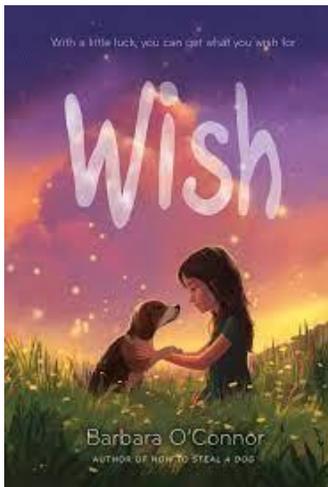


Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world... Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety 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.

Trapped, by Marc Aronson

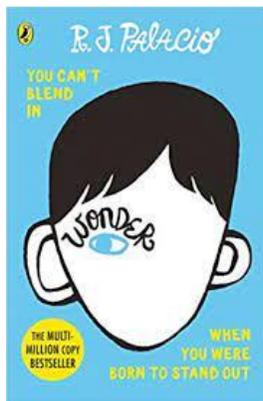


In early August 2010, the unthinkable happened when a mine collapsed in Copiapó, Chile, and 33 miners were trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources and increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention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



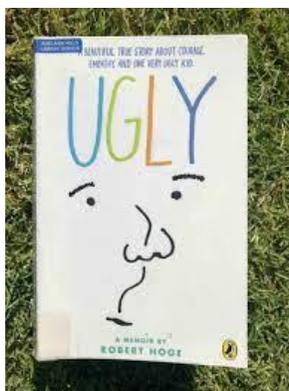
Wish, by Barbara O'Connor

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.



Ugly, by Robert Hoge

Robert Hoge was born with a giant tumour on his forehead, severely distorted facial features and legs that were twisted and useless. Robert's parents, Mary and Vince, knew that his life would be difficult, but they were determined to give him a typical Australian childhood. *Ugly* is Robert's account of his life, from the time of his birth to the arrival of his own daughter. It is a story of how the love and support of his family helped him to overcome incredible hardships. It is also the story of an extraordinary person living an ordinary life, which is perhaps his greatest achievement of all. (*nonfiction/memoir*)



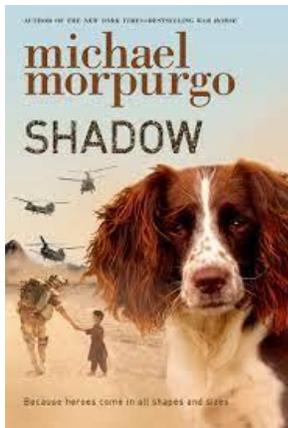
The Invisible World, by Suzanne Weyn

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.

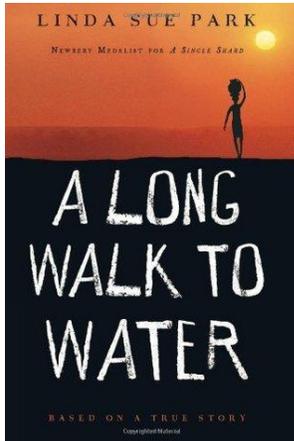
When Elsabeth sails with her sister, father, and governess to America, however, she does not foresee that their ship will be wrecked in a storm. Alone for the first time in her life, she washes up on a South Carolina plantation, where she falls in love with a boy she meets there and learns magic and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

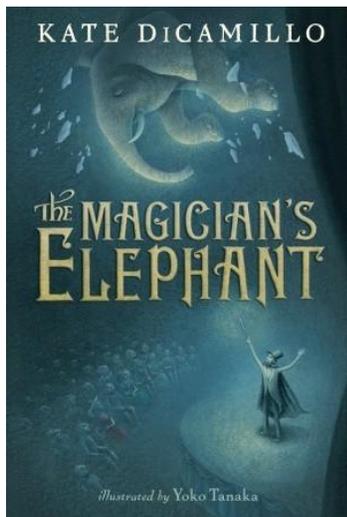


With the horrors of war bearing down on them, fourteen-year-old Aman and his mother are barely surviving in an Afghan cave. The only comfort Aman has is Shadow, the loyal spaniel who shows up from places unknown, it seems, just when he needs him the most. Aman, his mother, and Shadow finally leave the 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.



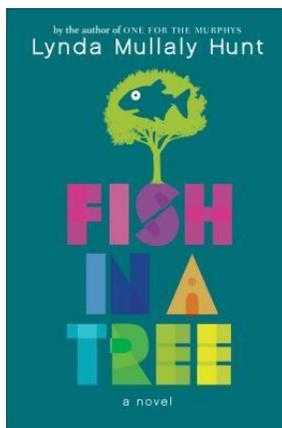
A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story, by Linda Sue Park

A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.



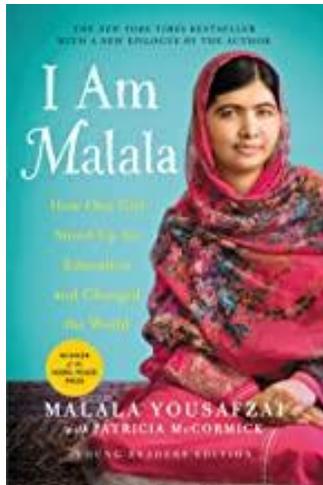
The Magician's Elephant, by Kate DiCamillo

When a fortune teller's tent appears in the market square of the city of Baltese, orphan Peter Augustus Duchene knows the questions that he needs to ask: Does his sister still live? And if so, how can he find her? The fortuneteller's mysterious answer (an elephant! An elephant will lead him there!) sets off a chain of events so remarkable, so impossible, that you will hardly dare to believe it's true. With atmospheric illustrations by fine artist Yoko Tanaka, here is a dreamlike and captivating tale that could only be narrated by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo. In this timeless fable, she evokes the largest of themes — hope and belonging, desire and compassion — with the lightness of a magician's touch.



Fish in a Tree, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

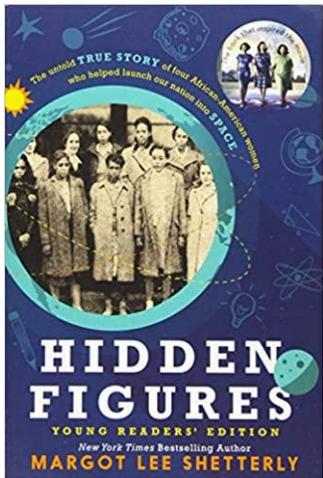
Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; however, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.



I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition), by Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick

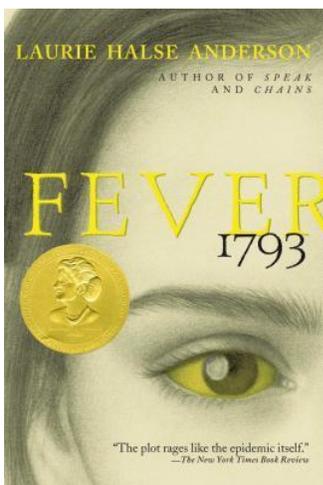
I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I AM MALALA will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.



Hidden Figures (Young Readers Edition), by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.



Fever 1793, by Laurie Halse Anderson

It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. But fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate. New customers have overrun her family's coffee shop, located far from the mosquito-infested river, and Mattie's concerns of fever are all but overshadowed by dreams of growing her family's small business into a thriving enterprise. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life must give way to a new fight—the fight to stay alive.