

LTMS 7th Grade Language Arts Summer Reading List

Please select **two** books from the list below to read during summer break. Be prepared for an assessment activity when school begins in the fall.

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves.

Dogsong by Gary Paulsen

A fourteen-year-old Eskimo boy who feels assailed by the modernity of his life takes a 1400-mile journey by dog sled across ice, tundra, and mountains seeking his own "song" of himself.

Haveli by Suzanne Staples

Having relented to the ways of her people in Pakistan and married the rich older man to whom she was pledged against her will, Shabanu is now the victim of his family's blood feud and the malice of his other wives. This is a sequel to Shabanu.

Lincoln: A Photobiography by Russell Freedman

Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

The Miracle Worker by William Gibson

Deaf, blind, and mute twelve-year-old Helen Keller was like a wild animal. Scared out of her wits but still murderously strong, she clawed and struggled against all who tried to help her. Half-blind herself but blessed with fanatical dedication, Annie Sullivan began a titanic struggle to release the young girl from the terrifying prison of eternal darkness and silence.

Nothing but the Truth by Avi

In this documentary novel, a ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

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

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by 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.

Warriors Don't Cry by Melba Beals

Beals chronicles her harrowing junior year at Central High where she underwent the segregationists' brutal organized campaign of terrorism which included telephone threats, vigilante stalkers, economic blackmailers, rogue police, and much more.

Witness by Karen Hesse

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

MORE ON REVERSE SIDE

Challenging Reads

Call it Courage by 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 Chosen by Chaim Potok

Two boys lives become intertwined when Reuven Malter is struck in the eye and nearly blinded by a line drive off the bat of Danny Saunders, during a fiercely contested baseball game between Malter's Orthodox Jewish high school team and Saunder's Hasidic yeshiva.

The Contender by Robert Lipsyte

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.

Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Accused of murdering a white man, a young black man in South Africa is helped by his minister father and by a white attorney, but the racial problems of the country prevent justice from being done.

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

The biography of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston relating her experiences of living at the Manzanar internment camp during World War II and how it has influenced her life.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcohol father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

The Sea Wolf by Jack London

Relates the story of a wealthy young man who is rescued after a shipwreck by the brutal, ruthless captain of a tramp steamer.

Send Me Down A Miracle by Han Nolan

When a flamboyant New York City artist returns to the sleepy, God-fearing Alabama town of her birth to conduct an artistic experiment, the resulting uproar splits the community and causes fourteen-year-old Charity to question many things that she had previously taken for granted.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

This book presents facts about the effects of pesticides on the environment, health and genetics.

Slam! by Walter Deann Myers

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

A Tree Grows In Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Young Francie Nolan experiences the problems of growing up in a Brooklyn, New York slum.

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

The author, an alumnus of Brandeis University, tells of his meetings with a former professor suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease and of the lessons he learned about life and death from his college mentor.

When the Legends Die by Hal Borland

Betrayed by both the white man and his own people, a Ute Indian tries to obliterate all trace of the heritage of his fathers.