

SCAPA'S 2026 7th Grade Summer Reading Lists

Summer reading is an attempt to prevent students from losing their reading skills during the two-month break. "Children who are readers add between 3,000 and 5,000 new words to their vocabulary every year through incidental exposure". (Nagy, Anderson, and Herman 1987) Reading comprehension and speed also improve as students add vocabulary words. We encourage you to read with your children and discuss their books. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to teach them those invaluable critical thinking skills they will need to develop in order to be successful in both school and the workplace. No time to read with your child? No problem. Host a book club for your child and their peers. They can read and discuss their books together just like adults do.

The books below may be located at the public libraries and at local or on-line bookstores. They reflect the themes of literature we will be discussing in the upcoming school year. However, only you know what is appropriate for your children, so we recommend you assist them in making selections which meet your expectations. In addition, I have listed the Lexile Reading Level next to each title along with the Lexile Reading Level Charts for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. This should help you assist your child in choosing the most appropriate books for his/her current reading level. Lexile levels are determined by sentence length as well as vocabulary, so the more dialogue a book has, the shorter the sentences. This can lead to below level Lexile Level scores for books which are still appropriate for your child's grade level.

6th Grade Lexile Level: 925-1070

7th Grade Lexile Level: 970-1120

8th Grade Lexile Level: 1010-1185

English Language Arts

Prior to the beginning of school, students must read a book for their English class and a book for their science class. As they read, they should look up any vocabulary words they are unfamiliar with. Teachers also recommend students take notes since they may use these notes, and the book, when they take the Accelerated Reading tests for the books they read during the summer. Each quarter 7th grade students are expected to earn AR points. AR points for summer reading will count toward the first quarter AR goal. NOTE: Extra points do not carry over to the next quarter. Students should expect an assignment related to summer reading.

7th Grade English Class Reading List (Mrs. Adkins)

THEME: Crossing Generations

(Note: Students will complete a project on their chosen book upon their return to school in the Fall. If they have trouble finding one of these books, please contact Ms. Adkins and she will help.)

1. A Place to Belong by Cynthia Kadohata (690)
2. Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah (960)
3. Ground Zero by Alan Gratz (690)
4. Homecoming by Cynthia Voight (630)
5. Mare's War by Tanita S. Davis (830)
6. Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline (890)
7. Same Sun Here by Silas House and Neela Vaswani (890)
8. Samurai Shortstop by Alan Gratz (790)
9. Saving Wonder by Mark Knight (870)
10. The Brooklyn Nine by Alan Gratz (840)
11. The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (840)

Accelerated 7th Grade English Reading List (Mrs. Aldridge)

1. Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (1050)
2. Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery (1040)
3. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith (810)
4. Dragon's Blood by Jane Yolen (870)
5. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (1300)
6. Martin the Warrior by Brian Jacques (890)
7. Sword of the Rightful King by Jane Yolen (1010)
8. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins (860)
9. The Book Thief by Maerkus Zusak (730)
10. The Prince and the Pauper (unabridged) by Mark Twain (1240)
11. The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien (1000)
12. Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne (1250)

7th Grade Science (Choose one book from the list below.)

Please email Mrs. Arkwright at ashlie.arkwright@fayette.kyschools.us with any questions about this list.

NOTE: Students will be creating a project about the book they read for science. They will also be expected to take the AR test on this book.

Cooney, Caroline

- Code Orange (941)

DeFelice, Cynthia

- The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker (811)

Goodall, Jane

- In the Shadow of Man (1178)

Gratz, Alan

- Two Degrees (770)

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

- Double Identity (781)

Herriot, James

- All Creatures Great and Small (1009)
- All Things Bright and Beautiful (999)
- All Things Wise and Wonderful (999)
- The Lord God Made Them All (989)

Hickam, Homer

- Rocket Boys (910)

Kelly, Jacqueline

- The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate (829)

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw

- Charles Darwin: The Life of a Revolutionary Thinker (1211)

Preston, Richard

- The Hot Zone (1061)

Werlin, Nancy

- Double Helix (781)

25-26 Battle of the Books Middle School List

Battle of the Books is a reading promotion program in Elementary and Middle Schools where students compete in a tournament style competition by answering questions about books on a designated book list. For Elementary, students read a total of 12 books in preparation for the Battle of the Books competition. Participation in Battle of the Books is voluntary. For more details, please reach out to Ms. Jeanene Jones, SCAPA Librarian, jeanene.jones@fayette.kyschools.us OR 859-381-3332 Ext. 41623.

