

## TMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Summer Reading

**Required summer assignment.** You can choose to do the following assignment at your leisure over the summer or all at once during the first week of school.

**Pick one fiction and one non-fiction reading** from your grade level list below. As you read, pay attention to the following items:

- Plot or events of the text
- Main characters of the text
  - how they are described
  - if they change in any way
- Theme or themes (life lessons) from the text
- Major similarities and differences (any connections) between the two texts you choose to read.

During the first weeks of school, you will have an assignment involving your texts and the focus information above.

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Fever 1793*. This is a riveting tale of a young Philadelphia girl as she struggles to protect her family and her life during a yellow fever outbreak.

Jeanne Birdsall, *The Penderwicks*. This is a refreshing and sweet tale of a family of four girls, their father and dog during a summer of fun, adventure, and growing up.

Edward Bloor, *Tangerine*. Paul has always lived in his brother's shadow, but a move to Florida gives him a fresh start, a spot on the soccer team, and a chance to learn that sometimes it's best to just be yourself.

Meg Cabot, *All-American Girl*. A fun read about a feisty, artistic 15-year-old girl who finds herself in the right place at the right time to save the President's life.

Lynne Cherry, *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming*. Veteran science writer Cherry and award-winning photographer Braasch team up to make climate change less frightening by showing children how to empower themselves as "citizen scientists."

Sharon Creech, *Absolutely Normal Chaos*. Groaning about summer reading? Well, what if you had to also keep a journal? That is the case for Mary Lou Finney; however, her summer quickly turns into a ton of fun when her cousin comes to stay.

Howard Fast, *April Morning*. A fast-paced account of a fifteen-year-old boy who grows up quickly during the Battle of Lexington, 1775.

Margaret Peterson Haddix, *Uprising*. The lives of Bella, an Italian immigrant; Yetta, a Russian immigrant; and Jane, daughter of a wealthy American family, become intertwined. All three are caught up in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911.

Homer Hickam, *October Sky*. The touching memoir of Hickam's plight, as the son of a West Virginia coal miner, to overcome countless hurdles, build a rocket, and win the 1960 National Science Fair.  
Cynthia Khadohata, *Kira Kira*. Katie Takeshima narrates this poignant story of one immigrant family's move to south Georgia and the difficulties they faced.

Mike Lupica, *Writes books about boys and sports*. Travel Team is a favorite.

Walter Dean Myers, *Slam!* Basketball star Greg “Slam” Harris faces a year of adjustments: a new school, a new team, and a new struggle to balance his old life and friends with his new ones.

Kirby Larson, *Hattie Big Sky*. Sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks tries to beat insurmountable odds and make it as a homesteader in a sometimes-harsh Montana.

Ben Mikaelson, *Touching Spirit Bear*. Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native America Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island.

Sonia Monzano, *Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*. Evelyn Serrano has two secrets – her true feeling about growing up in Spanish Harlem and her attitude about Abuela, her sassy grandmother. Events erupt, like the Young Lords setting street fires and protesting. Abuela steps in to take charge, tempers flare, loyalties are tested, and through it all Evelyn learns important truths about her Latino heritage.

Jim Murphy, *Truce: The Day The Soldiers Stopped Fighting*. This is a close-up view of the Great War, World War I, and the extraordinary story of the December 25, 1914 truce between German and British soldiers as they laid down their weapons and met in No Man’s Land to celebrate Christmas.

Kadir Nelson, *We are the Ship: The story of Negro League Baseball*. The early 1900s Negro League Baseball consisted of players who made great sacrifices and showed tremendous courage in the face of adversity, all for the sake of the game they loved.

Bill Nye, *Unstoppable: Harnessing Science to Change the World*.

James Patterson, *The Final Warning*. “Three cheers! Max is one of the smartest, strongest, funniest heroines around.” In this breathtaking new story from the astonishing imagination of James Patterson, a girl has to save herself and maybe the planet. This story, a science fiction/adventure is for readers from ten to a hundred and ten.

Richard Peck, *A Long Way from Chicago*. Joey and Mary Alice learn that sometimes, even when you live in a big city, the strangest adventures find you when you’re “a long way from Chicago.” Fans will also enjoy the sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*.

Jane Redd, *Solstice*. Science Fiction/Dystopian novel about a time when it rained non-stop for 37 years.

Pam Munoz Ryan, *Esperanza Rising*. After her father is murdered, Esperanza Ortega is forced to flee her beloved El Rancho de las Rosas in Mexico to a migrant camp in California.

Louis Sachar, *Holes*. Read how Stanley Yelnats escapes his family curse and Camp Green Lake where character is built by building holes five feet wide and five feet deep.

Eric Schlosser, *Chew on This*. Have you seen the movie *Fast Food Nation*? This very similar book exposes the truths about Americans and fast food.

James L. Swanson, *Bloody Times: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Manhunt for Jefferson Davis*. Alternating chapters of the story of Lincoln’s last days as a living and then martyred President with the story of Jefferson Davis’ attempt to keep the Confederacy alive make for a fascinating glimpse into

history. The details of Lincoln's funeral train, and the throngs of mourners as it travels to Springfield, Illinois, are interspersed with Davis's journey to save the south as well as avoid arrest.

James L. Swanson, *"The President Has Been Shot!" The Assassination of John F. Kennedy*. This fast-paced book takes readers through the assassination of President Kennedy by switching among the actions of Lee Harvey Oswald, the president, the Secret Service, and the first lady. Photographs, video stills, and diagrams help readers get a clear picture of what happened on November 22, 1963.

Michael Tunnell, *Candy Bomber: The Story of The Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot."* This is the true story of Gail Halvorsen, an American pilot and real-life hero who parachuted small bags of candy over the war-torn city of Berlin, giving hope to children and families during the aftermath of World War II.

Shelia Turnage, *Three Times Lucky*. Eleven years ago in a small town in North Carolina, Moses LoBeau was adopted into a family who discovered her floating downriver after a hurricane. Now the family she loves is threatened when a policeman comes to town asking about a murder. Moe and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth.

Sally M. Walker, *Written In Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*. This book is the work of forensic scientists who are excavating grave sites in James Fort in Jamestown, Virginia, to understand who lived in the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1600s and 1700s. It uncovers the lives of a teenage boy, a ship's captain, a colonial officer, an African slave girl, and others. Nearly every page has at least one illustration, a color photo or helpful diagram, a map, or a period document.