

7th Grade Suggested Reading List

WE ENCOURAGE ALL STUDENTS AT DURHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL TO READ A VARIETY OF MATERIALS. STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO READ ANY BOOK THAT INTERESTS THEM; IF A STUDENT NEEDS SOME SUGGESTIONS, THIS LIST CONTAINS SOME GOOD BOOKS TO TRY. **THIS LIST IS NOT REQUIRED READING!**

FICTION

*Challenging

Asimov, Isaac FANTASTIC VOYAGE* (Lexile 770L)

Four men and a woman are reduced to microscopic fraction of their original size and sent into a dying man's body.

Avi. CRISPIN (Lexile 730L) Newbery Winner

An orphaned peasant boy in 14th century England is accused of a crime he didn't commit. He flees and experiences many injustices before learning his name, Crispin, and that his parents' origins might be more perplexing than he ever imagined

Bauer, Joan. HOPE WAS HERE(Lexile 710L)

Hope is on the move again, relocating from New York to a job as a waitress at the Welcome Staircase Cafe in Wisconsin

Clements, Andrew THINGS NOT SEEN (Lexile 6001L)

When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Coville, Bruce JULIET DOVE, QUENN OF LOVE(Lexile 670L)

A shy twelve-year-old girl must solve a puzzle involving characters from Greek mythology to free herself from a spell which makes her irresistible to boys.

Creech, Sharon. RUBY HOLLER. (Lexile 660L)

Dallas and Florida are both orphans and trouble twins who have given up believing there is such a thing as a loving home until they meet an eccentric old couple who live in the beautiful, mysterious Ruby Holler.

Cushman, Karen. RODZINA. (Lexile 740L)

Polish American Rodzina boards the orphan train to travel to the West and a new life.

DeFelice, Cynthia. THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LUCAS WHITAKER. (Lexile 830L)

As apprentice to Doc Beecher, Lucas devotes his life to discovering the causes of consumption after his parents and family members die of the dreaded disease.

Ellis, Deborah. THE BREADWINNER. (Lexile 630L)

Parvana lives in Kabul, Afganistan. When conditions grow desperate for her family, she poses as a boy so she can earn money to help them. Also, any in series.

Ellis, Deborah MUD CITY(Lexile 740L)

The story of fourteen-year-old Shauzia, who escaped from Kabul, Afghanistan, and who is unhappy with her life as a refuge in a camp in Pakistan.

Farley, Walter. THE BLACK STALLION. (Lexile 680L)

This action story details the developing relationship between Alex and the wild Arabian stallion he befriends while they are stranded together on a deserted island. Also, any in series.

Fenner, Carol. YOLANDA'S GENIUS. (Lexile Not Listed)

Genius is not just book-learning, as Yolanda discovers her brother has a gift for music.

Fleischman, Paul. SEEDFOLKS. (Lexile 710L)

Kim's simple act of planting a seed changes life in her multi-ethnic neighborhood.

George, Jean Craighead. THE MISSING GATOR OF GUMBO LIMBO(Lexile 740L)

Sixth grader Lisa, one of five homeless people living in an unspoiled tropical forest in southern Florida, searches for an alligator in order to save it from extermination by the authorities.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. LILY'S CROSSING(Lexile 720L)

During a summer spent at the beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with Albert, a young Hungarian refugee, causes her to see the war and her own world differently

Giff, Patricia Reilly. PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS. (Lexile 650L)

A troubled twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

Gilmore, Rachna. A GROUP OF ONE. (Lexile Not Listed)

Tara just wants to be accepted as a Canadian, but this seems to get more difficult when her grandmother comes from India for an extended visit

Gipson, Fred. OLD YELLER. (Lexile 910L)

This is the story of a special friendship between a 14-year-old boy and a big, ugly, yellow dog in the Texas wilderness

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. JUST ELLA. (Lexile 850L)

Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal catches her in a dull world of needlework and etiquette. As she comes to believe her prince is really Prince Boring, she plots her escape.

Hale, D & M LaBrot RED CARD (Lexile Not Listed)

After living in a series of foreign countries, thirteen-year-old Zeke Armstrong moves to Dallas, Texas, and hopes to have a normal life. He joins the Sundogs soccer team and soon finds himself at the Lone Star Invitational tournament. When someone tries to kill his coach, he finds himself in the middle of another adventure.

Hamilton, Virginia. *COUSINS* (Lexile 550L)

Concerned that her aged grandmother may die, Cammy is unprepared for the accidental death of another relative.

Hinton, S.E. TEX (Lexile 710L)

A story of two parentless brothers in rural Oklahoma.

Juster, Norton. THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH. (Lexile1000L)

A young man travels to many lands, including Digitopolis, discovering dodecahedra and many other fascinating mathematical ideas.

Kerr, Judith. WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT (Lexile 780L)

A Jewish family forced to flee Germany in 1933 overcomes the difficulties of their refugee lives through their love and support for each other.

Kidd, Diana. ONION TEARS (Lexile 780L)

A little Vietnamese girl tries to come to terms with her grief over the loss of her family and her new life with an Australian family.

Klass, David CALIFORNIA BLUE (Lexile 820L)

Discovery of a rare butterfly throws John's life-and his logging town-into chaos.

Konigsburg, E.L. THE OUTCASTS OF 19 SCHUYLER PLACE(Lexile 840L)

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand-uncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.

Koss, Amy GOSSIP TIMES THREE(Lexile Not Listed)

The relationships among three friends change in seventh grade when they discover that two of them have a crush on the same boy.

Kurtz, Jane. THE STORYTELLER'S BEADS. (Lexile 750L)

During the political strife and famine of the 1980s, two Ethiopian girls, one Christian and the other Jewish and blind, struggle to overcome many difficulties, including their prejudices about each other, as they make the dangerous journey out of Ethiopia.

Levine, Gail Carson. ELLA ENCHANTED. (Lexile 650L)

Was it a blessing or a curse? Ella is fated to "always be obedient" in this Cinderella story.

McGraw, Jarvis. *THE GOLDEN GOBLET*. (Lexile 930L)

In this novel set in ancient Egypt, a young goldsmith's apprentice is forced to work as a stonecutter by a cruel stepbrother who is in the business of robbing tombs.

Naidoo, Beverly. *THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH*. (Lexile 710L)

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are abandoned in London and search to find their long-lost uncle who can rescue them and help them reunite with their father.

Namioka, Lensey. *TIES THAT BIND, TIES THAT BREAK*. (Lexile 830L)

In China in 1911, Ailin resists tradition and pressure from her family by refusing to have her feet bound to make her more attractive for her future husband. Her act of defiance alters her life forever.

Namioka, Lensey. *YANG THE YOUNGEST AND HIS TERRIBLE EAR*. (Lexile 700L)

Recently arrived in Seattle from China, musically untalented Yingtao is faced with giving a violin performance to attract new students for his father when he would rather be making friends and playing baseball.

Naylor, Phyllis *BERNIE MCGRUDER AND THE BATS IN THE BELFRY*
(Lexile Not Listed)

Many residents of Middleburg, Indiana, are already going crazy from the ever-ringing church bells and now after a bat is spotted in the hotel run by Bernie's family, they worry that the dangerous Indiana Aztec bat has finally arrived.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *THE GRAND ESCAPE* (Lexile 810L)

Two pampered house cats escape into the wonderful but dangerous outside world of dumpster dining and a ferocious dog, Bertram the Bad.

Nelson, Theresa *RUBY ELECTRIC* (Lexile 750L)

Twelve-year-old Ruby Miller, movie buff and aspiring screen writer, tries to resolve the mysteries surrounding her little brother's stuffed woolly mammoth and their father's five year absence.

Norton, Mary. THE BORROWERS(Lexile 780L)

A family of miniature people who live in an old country house survive by borrowing things and are forced to leave their home under the clock.

O'Brien, Robert C. MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH(Lexile 790L)

Mrs. Frisby, a field mouse who lives in a garden, must move her family before the farmer begins plowing. Will the rats of NIMH help her find a brilliant solution to her dilemma?

Orlev, Uri RUN, BOY, RUN(Lexile 570L)

Based on the true story of a boy who escapes the Warsaw Ghetto and must survive throughout the war in the Nazi-occupied Polish countryside.

Paterson, Katherine JACOB HAVE I LOVED (Lexile 880L)

Sara Louise remembers her adolescence on an island in Chesapeake Bay, and her jealousy of her beautiful twin sister.

Paulsen, Gary. BRIAN'S WINTER(Lexile 1140L)

In this sequel to HATCHET, author Paulsen writes about what would have happened to Brian if he had not been rescued and was forced to survive the winter on his own.

Paulsen, Gary, editor SHELF LIFE-STORIES BY THE BOOK(Lexile 730L)

Ten short stories in which the lives of young people in different circumstances are changed by their encounters with books.

Philbrick, Rodman THE LAST BOOK OF THE UNIVERSE(Lexile 740L)

In a future time where no one reads, a boy meets an old man who has lots of crazy, wonderful ideas. Together they try to change their world.

Richardson, V.A. THE HOUSE OF WINDJAMMER(Lexile Not Listed)

In the fall of 1636, Adam, fourteen-year-old heir to the House of Windjammer, must find a way to keep his family afloat after his father dies and tulip fever sweeps Amsterdam.

Shusterman, Neal. DOWNSIDERS. (Lexile 1110L)

Talon lives Downside, or underneath New York City. When he accidentally meets Lindsay, a Topsider from above ground, their worlds inevitably collide.

Sis, Peter. TIBET: THROUGH THE RED BOX. (Lexile 870L)

Opening the red box, Peter Sis finds the diary his father kept when he was a photographer in Tibet in the 1950s.

Skurzynski, Gloria, and Alan Ferguson. WOLF STALKER: MYSTERIES IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS. (Lexile 700L)

Twelve-year-old Jack, his younger sister, and the family's teenage foster child go to Yellowstone National Park, where Jack's mother, a wildlife veterinarian, is investigating a report that wolves reintroduced into the Park have attacked.

Slote, Alfred. FINDING BUCK MCHENRY(Lexile 500L)

Jason believes the school custodian is really a famous pitcher from the old Negro baseball leagues. Trouble brews as others hear about Buck's "secret identity."

Soto, Gary. PACIFIC CROSSING(Lexile 750L)

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza spends a summer with a family in Japan, encountering new experiences and making new friends

Spinelli, Jerry. CRASH. (Lexile 560L)

Seventh grade football sensation Crash Coogan torments his nerdy neighbor, Penn Webb, until he realizes that Penn is actually to be admired.

Stanley, Diane. THE TRUE ADVENTURE OF DANIEL HALL(Lexile Not Listed)

In 1856, fourteen-year-old Daniel Hall leaves his hometown to join a whaling expedition aboard The Condor. When life on The Condor isn't what he expected, Daniel jumps ship in the Siberian wilderness and experiences more danger and adventure than most people see in a lifetime.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. TREASURE ISLAND* (Lexile 1070L)

An innkeeper and his son find a map on the body of a deceased guest. The map promises a pirate's fortune and many adventures follow.

Taylor, Mildred. *SONG OF THE TREES*(Lexile 710L)

Cassie's family is deeply attached to the forest on the land where they live. While Cassie's father is away, the family tries to save the trees from being destroyed by an unscrupulous man.

Taylor, Mildred D. *THE LAND*. (Lexile Not Listed)

Paul-Edward Logan, son of a white plantation owner and an African-Indian slave mother, runs away at 14 to seek his own fortune. This is Taylor's exciting prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Also, any in series.

Tolan, Stephanie *SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES* (Lexile 820L)

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

Whelan, Gloria. *GOODBYE VIETNAM*(Lexile 810L)

When Mai and her family learn the government plans to arrest their grandmother, they're forced to flee Vietnam in a tiny overcrowded boat.