

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!**

NONFICTION

Bachrach, Susan. TELL THEM WE REMEMBER: THE STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST(Lexile 1190L)

The U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of artifacts and pictures tells the story of the Holocaust.

Brandenburg, J. SAND AND FOG: ADVENTURES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. (Lexile 1080L)

This photojournalist's book recounts the author's journey through the natural wonders of southern Africa

Bridges, Ruby. THROUGH MY EYES. (Lexile Not Listed)

Ruby Bridges tells the moving story of her year in first grade at the all-white William Frantz Public School in New Orleans in 1960.

Burnie, David. SEASHORE(Lexile Not Listed)

This Eyewitness Explorers book describes plant and animal life at various types of seashores

Choi, Sook Nyul. ECHOES OF THE WHITE GIRAFFE. (Lexile 870L)

This is a story of a Korean family's hardships after the bombing of Seoul

Coerr, Eleanor. SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES(Lexile 630L)

This book tells the story of Sadako Sasaki, who was two when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. As a result of radiation from the bomb, Sadako developed leukemia

Cooper, Michael L. FIGHTING FOR HONOR. (Lexile 1040L)

This book examines the history of Japanese Americans and their mass relocation to internment camps during WWII.

D'Aulaire, Ingri, and Edgar D'Aulaire. D'AULAIRE'S BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS(Lexile Not Listed)

This book describes in words and drawings the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece

Dakos, Kali. DON'T READ THIS BOOK WHATEVER YOU DO! (Lexile Not Listed)

"Best Friends," "A School Lost and Found," and "Messy Handwriting"...Enjoy reading this collection of poems about life in school.

Driscoll, Michael A CHILD'S INTRODUCTION TO POETRY (Lexile NC1110L)

Colorful illustrations and poems introduce the reader to poetry, teaching them about different types of poems and the most popular poets from history.

Fleischman, John. PHINEAS GAGE. (Lexile 1030L)

This is the gruesome, true account of an accident that happened to a railroad foreman in Vermont in 1848. A 13 pound iron rod shot thru his brain. He survived but became a text book case in brain science.

Fleischman, Paul. I AM PHOENIX: POEMS FOR TWO VOICES(Lexile Not Listed)

In this collection of poetry, the author celebrates the sound and the sense of birds. Written to be spoken aloud by two voices, these poems capture the beauty of birds in their singing, soaring, and rejoicing.

Fritz, Jean. AROUND THE WORLD IN A HUNDRED YEARS FROM HENRY THE NAVIGATOR TO MAGELLAN(Lexile 1050L)

This book examines the great wave of European exploration during the 1400s in a way that brings to life the explorers who changed the world map.

Godfrey, Neale. ULTIMATE KID'S MONEY BOOK. (Lexile 770L)

This book has everything you need to know about money - how to earn, save, spend, and share it.

Goodall, Jane. *THE CHIMPANZEES I LOVE: SAVING THEIR WORLD AND OURS.* (Lexile 990L)

Imagine a curiosity and passion that compels you to live in a community of chimpanzees. Dr. Goodall tells of her discoveries about chimpanzees, her love for them, and her campaign for the protection of these amazing animals.

Jiang, Ji-Li. *RED SCARF GIRL: A MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.* (Lexile 780L)

Ji-Li tells the story of her hardships and survival during the Cultural Revolution.

Kaminsky, Mary and Bobby Valentine. *UNCOMMON CHAMPIONS: FIFTEEN ATHLETES WHO BATTLED BACK.* (Lexile 1090L)

This book tells the stories of courageous athletes who battled adversity to find success.

Kehret, Peg. *SMALL STEPS*(Lexile 890L)

Peg Kehret, author of the *Frightmare* series, tells the story of her struggles to survive a severe case of polio at the age of twelve. She uses humor in describing her emotional and physical battles against the dreaded disease.

Kurlansky, Mark *THE COD'S TALE* (Lexile 980L)

Outlines the history of fishing for and consuming of codfish from the time of the Vikings through the present. Includes discussions of the cod's life cycle, over-fishing, and recipes using the fish.

Lasky, Kathryn. *THE MAN WHO MADE TIME TRAVEL.* (Lexile 840L)

John Harrison, an eighteenth-century clock maker solved the problem of tracking longitude in shipboard navigation. A shipwreck begins the story and explains how longitude was a life and death question for those who sailed the seas.

Leroe, Ellen. DISASTER! THREE REAL-LIFE STORIES OF SURVIVAL.
(Lexile 870L)

Children looking for exciting, real-life survival stories will be attracted by the cover of this collection of first-person accounts of three disasters: the 1914 shipwreck of the Empress of Ireland, the 1928 crash of the airship Italia, and the 1930 crash of the dirigible R-101.

Levine, Ellen. DARKNESS OVER DENMARK: THE DANISH RESISTANCE.
(Lexile 890L)

When Germany occupied Denmark during World War II, the Danes refused to turn a blind eye to Nazi atrocities. Of the nearly 8,000 Jews living in Denmark at the time of the occupation, almost all survived because the Danes took action.

Mah, Adeline Yen. CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER. (Lexile 850L)

Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah's memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother.

McKissack, Patricia. BLACK DIAMOND: THE STORY OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUES. (Lexile 11000L)

Stories and colorful quotes fill the pages of this fascinating history of the Negro baseball leagues before desegregation in 1947. The book highlights the talented players and focuses on their second-rate living and playing conditions.

Murphy, Jim AN AMERICAN PLAGUE: THE TRUE AND TERRIFYING STORY OF THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1793 (Lexile 1130L)

*2004 Newbery Honor Book, 2003 National Book Award Honor Book

In 1793 an invisible killer roamed the streets of Philadelphia. It was yellow fever. The book tells the story of the frantic race to find the cause and, hopefully, a cure. The lessons learned are relevant to us in the twenty-first century.

Nelson, Pete. LEFT FOR DEAD. (Lexile 1260L)

Nelson explains how the research of 11-year-old Hunter Scott, who was inspired by a passing reference in the movie *Jaws*, uncovered the truth behind a historic WWII naval disaster aboard the USS *Indianapolis*.

Nye, Naomi Shihab (ed.). THIS SAME SKY (Lexile Not Listed)

This poetry anthology includes works by 129 poets from 68 different countries, who celebrate the natural world

Paulsen, Gary HOW ANGEL PETERSON GOT HIS NAME (Lexile 1180L)

Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a small town in northwestern Minnesota in the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Peet, Bill. BILL PEET: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY(Lexile 1190L)

This well-known author and illustrator relates the fascinating details of his life and work

Philbrick, Nathaniel. REVENGE OF THE WHALE. (Lexile 1170L)

The sinking of the whaleship *Essex* was one of the most well-known marine disasters of the nineteenth century. This event inspired the famous book, *Moby Dick*, to be created.

Reiss, Johanna. THE UPSTAIRS ROOM(Lexile 380L)

This is a recollection of a Jewish child who was forced to hide from the Nazis in Holland during World War II.

Solheim, James. IT'S DISGUSTING AND WE ATE IT: TRUE FOOD FACTS AROUND THE WORLD AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY(Lexile AD1010L)

Take a lot of interesting facts about eating habits from around the world, blend in fun poems, and sprinkle in great illustrations to cook up a good read about food.

Wulffson, Don. THE KID WHO INVENTED THE POPSICLE. (Lexile 1080L)

Brief, factual stories of how various familiar things were invented, many by accident, make for an informative read. Also, THE KID WHO INVENTED THE TRAMPOLENE.