

## 7th Grade Sumer Reading List

Title and Author	AR Level	What's It All About?
The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn by Dorothy Hoobler	5.1	What do you long to be? Seikei wants to be a samurai, but he knows that as a merchant's son, the chances are slim. Will Seikei achieve his life's dream? Read this award-winning book to find out.
The Great Turkey Walk by Kathleen Karr	4.5	It is 1860. Fifteen-year-old Simon likes and respects his teacher. One day she tells him it's time he left her class to venture out into the real world. But what will become of him in the rough world of this frontier setting?
No Man's Land by Susan Bartoletti	4.6	Fourteen-year-old Thrasher lies about his age, joins the confederate army, and begins his courageous adventure. Along the way, Thrasher comes to know that enemies are people too.
Bearstone by Will Hobbs	5.0	A troubled Native American teen is sent to work on a ranch in the mountains of Colorado. There the elderly owner provides the steadying influence the boy needs, but complications arise.
Good Night, Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian	4.8	Young Willie is among thousands of children evacuated from London because of the bombing raids at the brink of World War II. When a wise old man named Mr. Tom adopts him, Willie learns to trust his world again.
Nobody's Daughter by Susan Pfeffer	4.5	Eleven-year-old Emily is packed off to an orphanage but dreams of finding her sister, who has been adopted. Harsh reality greets her in the form of Miss Browne, the director. Whom can she turn to?
North by Night by Katherine Ayres	4.8	This story centers on the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act. Through their letters and journal entries, 16-year-old Lucinda tells of her family's attempts to turn their Ohio farm into an Underground Railroad station.
The Dark Is Rising by Susan Cooper	6.2	Eleven-year-old Will Stanton struggles to overcome the powers of the Dark. Will must search for the six magical signs needed in the great battle between the Dark and the Light. Can he find them in time?
The Clay Marble by Minfong Ho	5.4	After fleeing war-torn Cambodia in 1980, Dara, her older brother, and her mother find sanctuary on the Thailand border in a refugee camp. Then fighting erupts, and Dara is separated from her family.

Crazy Lady! by Jane Leslie Conly	3.8	Does friendship have the power to heal? In this book, a woman's love for her son serves as a beacon of hope for a troubled youth.
Getting Near to Baby by Audrey Coulombis	5.1	Twelve-year-old Willa and Little Sister take to escaping to the roof of their aunt's house when their baby sister dies. Their mother, suffering from depression, can offer them nothing. Will time heal their wounds?
The Birthday Room by Kevin Henkes	5.0	When Ben Hunter receives two unique gifts, he tells his mom that he'd prefer a trip to see his estranged uncle. Why would he choose an uncle he hasn't seen for ten years? Read this compelling story of one family's forgiveness.
The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman	6.0	Alyce is a homeless girl living in medieval England. The town's midwife offers to teach her the art of delivering babies. She learns a great deal, but will she be able to make herself independent?
Charlie Pippin by Candy Dawson Boyd	4.6	Charlie's dad rarely shows her any affection. Now she's in trouble with the principal at school. Will father and daughter ever come to understand and appreciate each other?
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry	4.5	Life in Copenhagen is very different now that Nazi soldiers have marched into town. When the Jews of Denmark are "relocated," ten-year-old Ellen moves in with her best friend's family so that her own life is spared.
Spider Boy by Ralph Fletcher	3.9	When Bobby Ballenger moves from the Midwest to New York, he has a difficult time adjusting. The cruelty of his classmates makes him long for his former friends. Will he face the bullies and earn a second chance?
Spinners by Donna Jo Napoli and Richard Tchen	4.3	Napoli and Tchen retell a classic tale to give insights into the lives of Rumpelstiltskin and his daughter. Love, pride, avarice, and revenge are all a part of this delightful new version.
The Fire Pony by Rodman Philbrick	4.9	Roy is happiest when he's with his older brother Joe, who has a fiery temper and a special gift for healing horses. All seems well when Joe rescues Roy from a foster home, but before long, Joe reveals a darker side.
Wolf Shadows by Mary Casanova	4.8	As hunting season approaches, 12-year-old Seth finds himself disagreeing with his best friend, Matt, over the protection of wolves. On opening day, Matt wounds a wolf. Can Seth resolve his conflicting emotions before it's too late?

Friends and Enemies by LouAnn Gaeddert	5.0	William and Jim are best friends. But when World War II breaks Out, Jim refuses to support the war. Angered by his friend's stance, William joins forces in attacking Jim. Will Jim ever forgive him?
End of the Race by Dean Hughes	4.3	Two 12-year-olds find their friendship is tested when they represent their school in a track race. Jared feels he has to be the great athlete his dad was, while Davin, who is African American, considers their rivalry a racial conflict.
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor	5.7	Cassie Logan, growing up in a loving family, has never had reason to suspect that anyone would wish her harm. All that changes when her community comes under constant threat from "night riders."
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo	3.9	If you were suddenly uprooted to a distant place, would you be able to adjust? India Opal Buloni's (pronounced "baloney") first summer in the little town of Naomi is action-packed-- all thanks to a big, ugly dog named Winn-Dixie.
Mick Harte Was Here by Barbara Park	4.5	Can one ever feel happy after the death of a brother or sister? Thirteen-year-old Phoebe describes the stages of grief her family suffers after her brother Mick dies in an accident. Finally, she comes to terms with his death.
Skellig by David Almond	3.5	What if you discovered an ailing being in an old garage in a new neighborhood? This happens to Michael, who shares his find with his neighbor, Mina, and the two embark on a secret mission to save Skellig.
Dragonwings by Laurence Yep	5.3	In the early 1900ss, a Chinese boy named Moon Shadow travels to San Francisco. There he joins his father, Windrider, whom he has never met. The two survive poverty, loneliness, and an earthquake as they work to fulfill a long-held dream.
Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Staples	5.9	Shabanu is the 11-year-old daughter of a nomadic family in Pakistan. When it becomes apparent that the family's only way to survive is to pledge Shabanu in marriage, she has to make a decision. Where will she go?
Blackwater by Eve Bunting	3.6	Thirteen-year-old Brodie feels he may have caused the accidental death of Pauline Otis. It all started out innocently enough, but then there was a fall into the rushing current of the Blackwater River. Should Brodie tell what he knows?

The Window by Michael Dorris	5.2	Rayona, who is part Native American and Part African American, has suffered a childhood of neglect and secrets. When her father sends her to live with her grandmother in Kentucky, she finally finds some security and happiness.
The Voices of Silence by Bel Mooney	4.9	When you live in a totalitarian society, keeping silent means staying alive. Does that make you brave? Thirteen year-old Flora Popescu confronts this question as she comes of age in Communist Romania.
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Curtis	5.0	During the Great Depression, ten-year-old Bud escapes from a terrible foster home and hits the road in search of his real dad. The humorous way he tells about his travels across Michigan might make you laugh out loud.
Squashed by Joan Bauer	5.5	Ellie's future prize-winning pumpkin needs to gain 200 pounds in time for the Rock River Pumpkin Weigh-In, and Ellie thinks she needs to lose 20 pounds. Ellie finds that one way to cope is through her sense of humor.
A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck	5.0	Each summer Joey and his sister, Mary Alice, travel to downstate Illinois for a visit with Grandma Dowdel.
The Glory Field by Walter Dean Myers	5.0	The Glory Field chronicles milestones in African-American history from the 1700s to the present day through five generations of the Lewis family. Each generation draws strength from the Glory Field, a hallowed plot of land that represents their cherished heritage.
Bull Run by Paul Fleischman	5.3	In this story, characters memorialize the first battle of the Civil War from 16 different perspectives. Together they add an intimate dimension to our nation's bloodiest conflict.
The Monument by Gary Paulsen	4.9	Can the artist behind a monument change you more than the monument itself? When an artist comes to design a war memorial in Rocky's small Kansas town, he becomes Rocky's mentor and opens her eyes to broader horizons.
Our Only May Amelia by Jennifer L. Holm	4.8	Can time and place have an effect on the strength of family ties? you will enjoy reading 12-year-old May Amelia's diary as she gives a candid account of the joys and pains of pioneer life in the late 1800s.
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco	3.8	Patricia Polacco tells the story of her great-grandfather during the Civil War. Learn why the friendship of an Ohio farm boy and a freed slave has become a story retold through three generations.

Heaven by Angela Johnson	4.7	When deception backfires, who gets hurt? Fourteen-year-old Marley lives in Heaven, Ohio - a perfect, loving community. Then she learns that her parents are not her real parents and that all her life she's lived with deception.
Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer	5.0	What measurements could you use to describe your character? Rules of the road follows the independent Jenna Boller as she learns what's important in life.
Buddy Love: Now on Video by Ilene Cooper	4.2	When 13-year-old Buddy Love views his life through a camcorder lens, he gains insight into the lives of his family and friends and into his own character. To his delight, he finds his life is infinitely exciting.
The Crane Wife by Odds Bodkin	3.2	Why do people describe themselves in a certain way, hoping to impress others? In this tale of a poor sail maker who saves the life of a beautiful white crane, greed overcomes virtue, and the sail maker must learn a harsh lesson.
Nothing But the Truth by Avi	3.6	In the "documentary novel," 13-year-old Philip Malloy faces dire consequences when he defends his right to freedom of speech. The story is presented through fictional memos, letters, diary entries, and official school documents.
When JFK Was My Father by Amy Gordon	4.8	When 13-year-old Georgia Hughes's family life is changed drastically, she creates a fantasy family in which President Kennedy is her father. What will she do when the time comes to consider reality and leave her fantasies behind?
Honus and Me by Dan Gutman	4.3	Are you willing to risk a guilty conscience? Twelve-year-old Joe Stoshack discovers a baseball card worth half a million dollars - in someone else's attic. As he wrestles with his conscience, will he decide to keep the card?
Purely Rosie Pearl by Patricia Cochrane	5.2	Two young girls - one an optimist and one a pessimist - help each other endure the hardships of the Great Depression. Is either philosophy right, or is the answer somewhere in between?
Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges	5.9	Could you be optimistic about your future in the face of awful experiences/ Learn how Ruby Bridges kept her dreams alive as the only African-American first grader in the newly desegregated school in 1960.
Jazmin's Notebook by Nikki Grimes	5.8	Fourteen-year-old Jazmin has been passed along from one foster home to another. When she is finally given a chance to realize her

		dream of becoming a writer, will she achieve her goal despite the obstacles?
Zack by William Bell	5.8	During a tough year at his new school, Zack discovers that a distant relative of his was a former enslaved person who fought in the American Revolution. What he finds when he researches his family history will surprise you.
Promises to the Dead by Mary Downing Hahn	5.5	Twelve-year-old Jesse promises Lydia, a dying runaway enslaved person, that he will bring her young son Perry to relatives in Baltimore. Along the way, Jesse learns young Perry's true heritage and has to reevaluate everything he's ever known.
Trouble River by Betsy Byars	4.9	Dewey Martin, a 12-year-old boy living in the 1800s is left behind to tend the family farm while his parents go to Hunter City. Fearing an Indian raid, Dewey, his grandmother, and their dog, Charlie, set off on a small raft on the uncharted Trouble River - the only escape!
Lyddie by Katherine Paterson	5.6	When her family loses their farm, 14-year-old Lyddie Worthen risks everything and takes a job in a Massachusetts mill. Under the worst possible working conditions, she succeeds in overcoming adversity through the strength of her character.
Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt	6.6	This historical novel centers on the divided loyalties of the Creightons during the Civil War. Jethro is left behind to run the family farm, but he is not spared the horrors of war as experienced from the home front.
The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers	7.8	This biography traces the life of boxer Muhammad Ali from his childhood through his present-day struggles with Parkinson's disease. Along the way, he fights racism, stand up for his beliefs, and becomes a hero to millions.
Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson	5.3	Families have rules, schools have rules, and societies have rules. Fifteen-year-old Cole Matthews has always had trouble with those rules. Can he change his destructive path while living alone on a remote island?
On the Way Home by Laura Ingalls Wilder	5.3	Finding strength in writing, Laura Ingalls Wilder captures in her diary the landscapes, cultures, and people she encounters as her family travels from South Dakota to Missouri in the late 1800s.
Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan	5.3	What is it like to live in a society where how you are treated depends on your gender? In modern-day India, 13-year-old Koly must marry a

		16-year-old boy from a distant village. When he dies, Koly is alone in an unfamiliar city.
Beyond the Burning Time by Kathryn Lasky	5.6	What would it take to make you stand alone? In a New England village during colonial times, 12-year-old Mary Chase must defend her mother against the community's accusations of witchcraft.
The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman	7.1	Fairy tales and legends allow you to imagine yourself saving the world. In the first book of a trilogy, the adventurer Lyra holds the future of the world and all of its inhabitants in her hands.
Under the Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury	4.0	Life is normal for 13-year-old Tomi Nakaji. Then on December 7, 1941 Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor and Tomi's world turns into a nightmare.
Buffalo Gals: Women of the Old West by Brandon Marie Miller	7.7	This book makes history "come alive" through journal entries, letters, and songs. Learn about the many experiences of these strong, fearless women and the difficulties they faced as they took care of their children and homes.
The Contender by Robert Lipsyte	4.5	An African-American high school dropout living in Harlem in the 1960s, during the civil rights movement, struggles to prove himself through the rigor and discipline of boxing. He wonders whether he has the heart of a contender-inside and outside the ring.
The Tulip Touch by Anne Fine	4.4	Who might deceive you? Advertisers? Friends? When Natalie meets her neighbor a girl names Tulip, she becomes a willing pawn in Tulip's wicked deceptions. When the lies turn dangerous, can Natalie escape?
Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson	4.4	In this novel, 14-year-old Mattie Cook's day in 18th century Philadelphia begins with her coffeehouse chores and ends with an epidemic of yellow fever. Does Mattie become a statistic of this outbreak?
Lost in the War by Nancy Antle	4.1	Events like war are often a kind of disease. Thirteen-year-old Lisa Grey is too young to remember her father, who was killed in Vietnam. But she relives the war every day through her mom, who suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder.
Snake Dreamer by Priscilla Galloway	5.1	Disease can be physical or mental. Sixteen-year-old Dusa suffers from nightmares of writhing snakes. When her mother takes her to a sleep-disorder clinic in Greece, things become even more frightening.

<p>Walks Alone by Brian Burks</p>	<p>5.4</p>	<p>It's how we overcome challenges that can make us heroes. It's 1879, and 15-year-old Walks Alone watches the massacre of her people during a raid. Her loss and the challenges that follow teach her courage and hope.</p>
<p>Passage to Freedom by Ken Mochizuki</p>	<p>4.1</p>	<p>Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara watched Nazi forces invade Europe at the start of World War II. Jewish citizens were applying for visas in order to leave, but for many there were no visas. Inspired to help, Sugihara risked much to grant visas to as many as 10,000 Jews.</p>
<p>Bound for the North Star: True Stories of Fugitive Slaves by Dennis Brindell Fradin</p>	<p>7.3</p>	<p>The former enslaved people described in these 12 stories of heroic escapes have inspired movies and books. These stories continue to inspire readers to fight against cruelty worldwide.</p>