

Incoming 7th Grade Summer Reading List 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

In collaboration with Santa Monica Public Library, Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is pleased to announce our summer reading program prepared by our school librarians.

Because students' maturity and reading levels vary, we encourage parents to participate actively in selecting and/or discussing these titles.

Students are required to read two (2) books from the list for the grade they are entering in the fall. Students are responsible for obtaining their own books. The public libraries, as well as local booksellers, carry most of these titles.

We are very excited about this program and hope the books listed will provide knowledge and pleasure for your child. Have a fantastic summer filled with reading and adventure!

Sincerely, your librarians,

Sarah Ryan, Malibu High School

Amy Di Dario, Lincoln Middle School

Andrea Jarvis, John Adams Middle School

Students must read two (2) books from the 2019 Summer Reading List. When you return in August, you will be assigned a project by your English teacher. To prepare for your in-class assignment, consider taking notes on each book including:

Book Information

*Title/Author

*Genre

*Fiction or Nonfiction

Main Character(s)

*Name(s)

*Age(s)

*Traits

Summarize the plot.

Rate the book on a scale of 1 to 5.

*1 = I did not like it

*5= It was fantastic!

Realistic Fiction

Flake, Sharon | *The Skin I'm In*

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face. She learns how to love, who she is, and what she looks like.

McCall, Guadalupe Garcia | *Under the Mesquite*

When Lupita's mother is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family shifts, bringing big changes for this tight-knit Mexican-American family. Pura Belpré Award winner.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg | *Counting by 7s*

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people, and to find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Van Draanen, Wendelin | *Flipped*

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Blake, Ashley Herring | *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*

Ivy's house is destroyed in a tornado, and her notebook full of secret drawings of girls holding hands has gone missing. But then the drawings mysteriously begin to show up in her locker, along with notes encouraging her to open up about her true identity.

Non-Fiction

Heiligman, Deborah | *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith*

Charles Darwin and his wife, Emma, were deeply in love and very supportive of each other, but their opinions often clashed. Emma was extremely religious, and Charles questioned God's very existence.

Lewis, John; Aydin, Andrew | *March: Book One*

A vivid first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, and a modern reflection on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation.

Osborne, Linda Barrett | *This Land Is Our Land: A History of American Immigration*

This book explores the way government policy and popular response to immigrant groups have evolved throughout U.S. history. A 2017 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction finalist.

Tunnel, Michael O. | *Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"*

An American pilot decides to embark on a secret mission in his plane to drop off candy to children during World War II.

Historical Fiction

Levine, Kristin | *The Lions of Little Rock*

Painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

Smith, Sherri | *Flygirl*

Will Ida Mae Jones be able to hide that she is biracial in order to be a female pilot for the WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots) during World War I?

Steinbeck, John | *The Pearl*

Kino is a poor diver gathering pearls from the Gulf of California in order to support his family. Then one extraordinary day, he finds a pearl as large as a sea gull's egg, as "perfect as the moon."

Yang, Gene Luen | *Boxers*

Little Bao has had enough of missionaries and soldiers roaming the countryside bullying and robbing peasants. Harnessing the powers of ancient Chinese gods, he recruits an army of Boxers-- commoners trained in Kung Fu to fight to free China.

Fantasy & Science-Fiction

Charbonneau, Joelle | *The Testing*

War has left much of the planet a charred wasteland. The future belongs to the next generation's chosen few, who must rebuild it. But to enter this elite group, candidates must first pass *The Testing*.

Hartman, Rachel | *Seraphina*

In a world where dragons can assume human form, Seraphina grapples with her identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while struggling to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth | *Life as We Knew It*

Miranda journals about her life after an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, causing tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Wells, H.G. | *The War of the Worlds*

Extraterrestrials arrive to exterminate all of mankind. Will they succeed?

Mystery & Adventure Fiction

Auxier, Jonathan | *The Night Gardener*

Two abandoned Irish siblings travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house, where they are confronted by a mysterious spectre and an ancient curse.

Evans, Richard Paul | *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25*

Michael discovers that he has the power to control electricity, and he's not the only one in his high school. Soon, he and his friends are hunted by a shadowy organization that wants to use their powers to take over the world.

Maetani, Valynne E. | *Ink and Ashes*

With the discovery that her late father was a member of the yakuza - the Japanese mafia - seventeen-year-old Claire Takata is thrust into a world of danger and uncertainty.

Paulsen, Gary | *Brian's Winter*

Brian is forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.