

Summer Reading List: 7th Grade Literature

A Rationale for Summer Reading

- * To prepare for thoughtful discussion and writing the first day of class.
- * To generate interest and pleasure in reading that enriches literary and philosophical experience.
- * To encourage a lifelong love of reading.
- * To use time not available during the school year to read classics that expand cultural literacy.

Choice Text (Select ONE that you have not read previously.)

- *An American Life* Jimmy Gentry
Chronicles a time that has all but disappeared, both in Franklin and small-town America. It tells about the life of Jimmy Gentry growing up in Franklin, TN, and his account of surviving World War II.
- *Souder* William H. Armstrong
Set in the Deep South, this Newbery Medal-winning novel tells the story of the great coon dog Souder and the poor sharecroppers who own him.
- *Rebecca* Daphne Du Maurier
After reading one of the most famous first sentences in any novel, the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew.
- *Walk Across America* Peter Jenkins
"I started out searching for myself and my country," Peter Jenkins writes, "and found both." In this classic memoir Jenkins describes how disillusionment with society in the 1970s drove him on a walk across America.
- *Kira-Kira* Cynthia Kadohato
When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to Georgia, her sister Lynn explains why people stop on the street to stare. When Lynn becomes desperately ill and the family begins to fall apart, however, Katie has to remind them all that there is always something glittering in the future.
- *The Running Dream* Wendelin Van Draanen
This is an award-winning and inspiring novel. Jessica thinks her life and high school dreams are over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about

walking when you live to run? Follow Jessica's journey as she learns to dream bigger than ever before.

- *When You Reach Me*

Rebecca Stead

By sixth grade Miranda and her best friend Sal know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know whom to avoid—like the crazy guy on the corner.

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Mark Twain

This childhood classic relates a small-town boy's pranks and escapades with timeless humor and wisdom.

General Instructions/Evaluations

- 1. The specific evaluation method(s) for summer reading will be discussed the first day of class.**
- 2. Students should have the summer reading book with them the first day of class.**
- 3. Although not required for summer reading, annotation (highlighting, margin notes, summaries) of the reading is a beneficial tool for comprehension and retention.**

**Happy Summer Reading!!

Mrs. Shaw

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