

Seventh Grade Reading List

Students entering seventh grade must read the required text, **Spy School** and one (1) book from the recommended list. To ensure good recall of major themes and elements of the text, students are strongly urged to take notes on each book and record major characters, conflicts, settings and themes. Objective tests will be administered during the first week of school and students will also write an essay during the first few weeks of the first term.

REQUIRED BOOK:

Gibbs, Stuart. Spy School, 2013.

Ben Ripley is a middle-schooler whose school is not exactly average—he’s spied the last year training to be a top-level spy and dodging all sorts of associated danger. So now that summer’s finally here, Ben would like to have some fun and relax. But that’s not going to happen during required spy survival training at a rustic wilderness camp, where SPYDER, an enemy spy organization, has infiltrated the spies’ ranks. Can Ben root out the enemy before it takes him out—for good?

Select one additional book from this list:

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Among the Hidden, 2000.

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law of limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family’s farm, until another “third” convinces him that the government is wrong.

Palacio, R.J. Wonder, 2012

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Rylander, Chris. The Fourth Stall, 2011.

Sixth-graders Mac and Vince operate a business charging schoolmates for protection from bullies and for help to negotiate conflicts peacefully, with amazing challenges and results.

Phelan, Matt. Snow White: A Graphic Novel

This reimagined Snow White takes place in New York City in the 20s. Snow White’s dad is a Wall Street king, her stepmother is a Zigfield Follies star, and her seven small protectors are street kids. It’s SO interesting how Phelan uses this historical setting to animate a familiar fairy tale. The black and white illustrations set the tone for this dark story with a happy ending.

Olson, Tod. Lost in the Pacific, 1942: Not a Drop to Drink

Lost is a riveting retelling of a soldiers’ plane crash then *weeks* of thirst and starvation in the perilous south seas on precarious life boats. The fast-paced writing moves the story along with purpose and the photographic evidence is fascinating. Readers will be hard pressed to put this intense true-story down

Vogel Frederick, Heather. Mother Daughter Book Club REALISTIC

This series kept my 12-year old daughter reading all summer last year. The story begins when a group of 6th graders join a mother-daughter book club. Each book in the series focuses on one book the girls read (such as *Little Women*, *Daddy Long Legs*, and *Pride and Prejudice*) and the relationships of the girls among themselves, the relationships with their mothers, and the business of growing up.

Nesbet, Anne. Cloud and Wallfish

I was hooked by this mysterious plot about a boy named Noah whose parents one day tell him they're moving to East Germany, he has a different name and birthdate, and they must never talk about what's going on or what they really feel. It's 1989. Once there, Noah who is now called Jonah meets a sad little girl named Claudia. While there are some plot holes that are never addressed, this story gives us a glimpse into the fearful environment of this communist country just before the Berlin Wall comes down.