



**WMS  
SUMMER  
READING  
2010-2011**

# SEVENTH GRADE

## **Entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Summer Reading Book**

*ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS BOOK*

### **Korman, Gordan. *Schooled***

All Cap knows is the isolated farm commune where just he and his grandmother, Rain, live. When Rain is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent to a public middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced (he learned to drive on the farm, but he has never watched television), long-haired Cap finds it hard to fit in. From chapter to chapter, the first-person narrative switches from everyone from Cap himself, to his social worker, to her daughter, to the coolest kid in school, and so on. Through all their stories we see Cap's unique way of dealing with his very unique situation.

**All students are required to read the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Summer Reading Book  
as well as one other book on the list below.**

**Wellesley Middle School  
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## Latest and Greatest (new releases)

**Carter, Ally. Heist Society**

Fifteen-year-old Kat schemes her way into the best boarding school, hoping to leave the thieving antics of her family behind her, but Hal, a former co-conspirator, appears on campus to tell Kat that a powerful mobster believes her father stole art from a priceless collection, and in order to save him, Kat will have to recover the paintings.

**Collins, Suzanne. Hunger Games Series**

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death. The sequel is *Catching Fire* and the third, and final book in the trilogy *Mockingjay* is due out in August.

**Coulombis, Audrey. War Games : a novel based on a true story**

In 1941, when Germans occupy their small Greek town and the commandant comes to live in their house, 12-year-old Petros and his family hide their American connections and an escaping Greek resistance fighter as well. Based on Akila Coulombis's wartime recollections, this novel is a grand read: an adventure full of the particulars of boys' play, and an unusual perspective on World War II lives.

**Dashner, James. The Maze Runner**

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.

**DeFelice, Cynthia C. Signal**

After moving with his emotionally distant father to the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, twelve-year-old Owen faces a lonely summer until he meets an abused girl who may be a space alien.

**McCaughrean, Geraldine. The Death-defying Pepper Roux**

Pepper Roux decides to test fate and embarks on a journey the day before he turns fourteen, which is also the day he is expected to die, meeting outrageous friends and dangerous enemies along the way.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz. The Dreamer**

A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.

**Tarshis, Lauren. Emma Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree (series)**

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

**Williams-Garcia, Rita. One Crazy Summer**

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

## If You Missed (classics)

**Avi. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, the only passenger on a voyage from England to America in 1832, must take serious matters into her own hands when she learns that the captain is murderous.

**Curtis, Christopher Paul. The Watsons Go to Birmingham**

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

**Cushman, Karen. The Midwife's Apprentice**

Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

**L'Engle, Madeleine. A Wrinkle in Time**

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**classics (continued)**

Lipsyte, Robert. **The Contender**

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.

Taylor, Mildren. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**

An African-American family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.

Yolen, Jane. **The Devil's Arithmetic**

Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.

**For Real... (non-fiction)**

Freedman, Russell. **Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott**

Drawing on the best of the personal stories and historic accounts of the triumphant Montgomery Bus Boycott of the Civil Rights era, Freedman, in this photo essay, allows the reader to understand what it was like to be there, on the street and on the bus.

Giblin, James Cross. **When Plague Strikes: The Black Death, Smallpox, Aids**

While the Black Death, smallpox, and AIDS may seem to have little in common, Giblin draws parallels between them that are fascinating. The Black Death was often blamed on Jews, leading to hatred and violence against them. In the same way, many people have blamed AIDS on homosexuals. The author traces the medical community's fearful and confused reactions to these diseases.

Nelson, Peter. **Left for Dead**

When eleven-year-old Hunter Scott begins to investigate the World War II sinking of the USS Indianapolis, he discovers a shocking, heartbreaking story behind what should have been a tale of heroism and patriotism. Torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, the Indianapolis went down in minutes, taking more than 800 sailors with it. Several hundred survived, but only after spending days in the open sea with sharks diminishing their numbers hourly. Then in an effort to make an example of the ship's captain, and in order to deflect blame from itself, the U.S. Navy unfairly court-martialed the captain, painfully changing the lives of all the men involved.

Rubel, David. **If I Had a Hammer: building homes and hope with Habitat for Humanity**

The author describes his experiences working with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that builds housing with volunteer laborers.

Silverstein, Ken. **Radioactive Boy Scout: The Frightening True Story of a Whiz Kid and his Homemade Nuclear Reactor**

Growing up in suburban Detroit, David Hahn was fascinated by science. While he was working on his Atomic Energy badge for the Boy Scouts, David began building a model nuclear reactor in his backyard garden shed. This true story reads like a first rate thriller.

Warren, Andrea. **Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps**

Through the words and memories of Jack Mandelbaum, Warren presents a harrowing account of a Jewish boy's experience in Nazi prison camps. Mandelbaum had lived a comfortable life with his family in Gdynia, Poland, until the German invasion forced them to flee to a relative's village in 1939. Later, when the Jews were sent to concentration camps, the 12-year-old became separated from the rest of his family and wound up in the Blechhammer camp.

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## It Could Happen to You (realistic fiction)

Connor, Leslie. **Waiting for Normal**

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Draper, Sharon. **Romiette and Julio**

In this modern retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story, sixteen year-old Julio Montague's parents have moved their family to Cincinnati, OH, in order to get their son out of his gang-ridden high school in Texas. Romiette Cappelle, also 16, is the daughter of successful African-American parents and the granddaughter of college professors. When these two young people begin a romance, they must deal not only with their parents' prejudices but also with the threats of a local gang.

Joseph, Lynn. **The Color of My Words**

Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is a blossoming writer growing up in the Dominican Republic, a country where words are feared. Yet there is so much inspiration all around her watching her brother search for future, learning to dance and to love, and finding out what it means to be part of a community that Ana must write it all down. As she struggles to find her own voice and a way to make it heard, Ana Rosa realizes the power of her words to transform the world around her.

Na, An. **A Step from Heaven**

At age four, Young Ju is not happy to be leaving her Korean home and loving Halmoni (grandmother) to move with her parents to Mi Gook (America), believed to be the land of great promise. Through Young Ju's experiences, listeners hear the family unravel as difficulties mount for them in the States.

Osa, Nancy. **Cuba 15**

Violet Paz, growing up in suburban Chicago, barely knows Spanish, and her dad refuses to talk about his Cuban roots, so it's a real surprise when Abuela insists that Violet have a grand quinceanero, the traditional Latina fifteenth-year coming-of-age ceremony. But Violet insists that she is an American and she wouldn't be caught dead in any onstage ceremony wearing a ruffled pink dress and a tiara.

Park, Barbara. **The Graduation of Jake Moon**

Jake Moon used to love the time he spent with his grandfather, Skelly, but that was before Skelly got Alzheimer's disease. All of a sudden, it's as if Skelly is the kid, and Jake has to be the grown-up. Much of Skelly's care becomes Jake's responsibility, and that doesn't leave much time for a life of his own. Then, one day Jake rebels, and the unthinkable happens. Has Jake discovered too late how much his grandfather still means to him?

Pearsall, Shelley. **All of the Above**

Everyone knows that Washington Middle School is a dead end and its students have no future. Then, Mr. Collins, the seventh grade math teacher, inadvertently challenges several students to build a tetrahedron (a 3-D multiplane structure) to break the Guinness world record. The students feign disinterest, but gradually the idea takes hold, ultimately drawing in troublemakers and well-behaved kids, parents, relatives, and community members alike. Based on a real event in 2002, this is a delightful story about the power of a vision and the importance of a goal.

Sonnenblink, Jordan. **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie**

Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, this is a heartwarming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **If You Come Softly**

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-yearold Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

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## It Happened Back Then (historical fiction)

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Elijah of Buxton**

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Cushman, Karen. **The Loud Silence of Francine Green**

Set in Los Angeles in 1949, this novel captures the terrors and confusions of the McCarthy era. Eighth-grader Francine admires her outspoken friend Sophie, who was kicked out of public school for painting "There is no free speech here" on the gymnasium floor. Francine feels muzzled at home and at her rigid Catholic school. Her worries escalate as Communist scares in Hollywood grow, and Sophie and her playwright father fall under suspicion.

Ketchum, Lisa. **Newsgirl**

Twelve-year-old Amelia Forrester arrives in San Francisco with her family in 1851 and dresses like a boy in the mostly-male town, cutting her hair and wearing a cap to work as a newsboy in order to sell Eastern newspapers and participate in the biggest stories of the day.

Paterson, Katherine. **Bread and Roses, Too**

Paterson has drawn upon the facts of the famous 1912 Bread and Roses strike in the mills of Lawrence, MA, and the sympathetic response of the citizens of Barre, VT, to tell the story of two children enmeshed in complex events.

Paulsen, Gary. **A Soldier's Heart**

Based on the life of a real boy, it tells the story of Charley Goddard, who lies his way into the Union Army at the age of 15. Charley thinks war would be a great adventure. And it is—at first—as his regiment marches off through cheering crowds. But then comes the battle. Charley can't believe that anything so horrible could be real. Paulsen is unsparing in the details of what actually happens on the battlefield.

Pullman, Phillip. **Ruby in the Smoke** (series)

In 1872 England, recently orphaned Sally Lockhart is looking for facts about death of her Father and becomes involved in a deadly search for a mysterious ruby.

Rinaldi, Ann. **Come Juneteenth**

Two years after Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, Texas slaves finally learned that they were free. Rinaldi personalizes the shocking Reconstruction history in this gripping novel that focuses on two young Texas women.

Schmidt, Gary. **The Wednesday Wars**

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Taylor, Mildred. **The Land**

Like Taylor's Newbery Medal book, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976), this powerful historical novel, a prequel to *Roll of Thunder*, refuses to "whitewash" history. As the author notes in her afterward, the language was painful and life was painful for many African Americans, including her family. Drawing directly on her family history, she goes back to the time of Reconstruction to tell a searing story of cruelty, racism, and betrayal. She also tells a thrilling coming-of-age story about friendship, hope, and family strength.

Whelan, Gloria. **Listening for Lions**

Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

## Edge of Your Seat (action/adventure)

Allison, Jennifer. **Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator** (series)

Ever since her father died, quirky Gilda Joyce has been determined to communicate with spirits and become a crack investigator of spooky, twisted mysteries. Hair-raising and hilarious, this is a behind-the-scenes, tell-all account of her very first case.

Abrahams, Peter. **Behind the Curtain** (Echo Falls Mystery series)

An avid Sherlock Holmes fan, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill is kidnapped while investigating mysterious happenings in her hometown.

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action/adventure (continued)

Dowd, Siobhan. **London Eye Mystery**

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Golding, Julia. **Diamond of Drury Lane**

Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.

Smelcer, John. **The Trap**

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

Smith, Roland. **Peak**

After Peak is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. For a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime, a challenge that could cost him his life.

Picture This (graphic novels)

Hale, Shannon and Dean. **Rapunzel's Revenge**

Rapunzel, raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls, dreams of a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. She climbs over the wall and finds out the truth. Her real mother, Kate, is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. In this Old West retelling, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso and to take on outlaws--including Gothel.

Cabot, Meg. **Volume 1, The Merlin Prophecy** (series)

A graphic novel continuation of the book [Avalon High](#) by Meg Cabot. Ellie, who is new to Avalon High, tries to convince her boyfriend Will, the alleged reincarnation of King Arthur, to fix his relationship with his parents and believe in himself

Petersen, David. **Mouse Guard (series)**

A graphic comic about the world of Mouse Guard, mice with capes and swords defending themselves against their enemies as if they were Knights of the Round Table.

Sala, Richard. **Cat Burglar Black**

K. Westree arrives at Bellsong Academy, where she hopes to leave her past as a cat-burglar behind, but she quickly learns that the school contains a hidden treasure left by its founder, and as she resumes her old habits, she starts to question whether she really wants a normal life.

Sturm, James. **Satchel Page: Striking Out Jim**

A graphic novel account of the career of Negro League pitcher Satchel Paige, discussing the show he put on as a popular player, as well as the respect he demanded as an African-American.

Home Run! (sports)

Feinstein, John. **Cover-up (series)**

More than 95 million fans will be watching the Superbowl, but Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson know that what they'll be watching is a lie. They know that the entire offensive line of the California Dreams failed their doping tests and that the Dreams' owner is trying to cover up the test results. These two teens are sitting on the biggest sports scandal of the decade. How can they prove it?

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Dairy Queen (series)**

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Game**

Drew Lawson knows basketball is taking him places. It has to, because his grades certainly aren't. But lately his plan has run squarely into a pick. Coach's new offense has made another player a star, and Drew won't let anyone disrespect his game. Just as his team makes the playoffs, Drew must come up with something big to save his fading college prospects.

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## Laugh Out Loud (humor)

Bauer, Joan. **Squashed**

While Ellie tries to get her potentially prize-winning pumpkin to put on two hundred more pounds, she struggles with her own weight, using her sense of humor to get through the struggles of life.

Korman, Gordon. **No More Dead Dogs**

Eighth-grade football hero Wallace Wallace is sentenced to detention attending rehearsals of the school play where, in spite of himself, he becomes wrapped up in the production and begins to suggest changes that improve not only the play but his life as well.

Peck, Richard. **The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts**

School is the only thing standing between fifteen-year old Russell and his dream of joining a team of harvesters. But when the teacher dies and Russell's sister takes over teaching, his worst nightmare comes true.

Scieszka, Jon. **Guys Write for Guys Read**

This collection contains most of the best guys writing for teens today. There's something for every guy in this collection of stories, mini-memoirs, advice, poems, comics and drawings chosen by readers on the Guys Read web site.

Soto, Gary. **Crazy Weekend**

Seventh-grader Hector's and Mando's visit to Uncle Julio in Fresno turns unexpectedly exciting when their photograph of a robbery is published in the newspaper and they are pursued by the hilariously inept thugs.

## Imagine That (fantasy/scifi)

Booraem, Ellen. **The Unnameables**

On an island in whose strict society only useful objects are named and the unnamed are ignored or forbidden, thirteen-year-old Medford encounters an unusual and powerful creature, half-man, half-goat, and together they attempt to bring some changes to the community.

LeGuin, Ursula. **The Wizard of Earthsea (Earthsea Trilogy)**

Sparrowhawk, with the potential to become the greatest sorcerer in Earthsea, is a headstrong youth hungry for power and knowledge. He behaves recklessly and unleashes a terrible evil shadow upon the world

Marsh, Katherine. **The Night Tourist**

After fourteen-year-old classics prodigy Jack Perdu has a near fatal accident, he meets Euri, a young ghost who introduces him to New York's Underworld. When Jack realizes those who died in New York reside in this Underworld until they are ready to move on, he vows to find his dead mother there.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **Princess Ben**

A girl is transformed, through instruction in life at court, determination, and magic, from sullen, pudgy, graceless Ben into a Crown Princess, a fit ruler of the kingdom of Montagne as it faces war with neighboring Drachensbett.

Zahn, Timothy. **Dragon and Thief: The First Dragonback Adventure (series)**

Fourteen-year old orphan Jack Morgan is hiding out in a spaceship when he meets battle-weary Dragon, a creature who exists in more than one dimension. Falsely accused of a crime, Jack escapes with Dragon's help to a remote and uninhabited planet.