

Summer Reading List – Students Entering Grade 7

3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows

by Ann Brashares

It's the summer before high school and Ama, Jo, and Polly, (friends since third grade) are going their own way. Ama is assigned to a summer wilderness camp instead of the academic program she was hoping for. Jo is dealing with her parents' separation and the attraction of a summer crush, and Polly is struggling to transform herself into a model. Is the strain on their friendship too great as each girl embarks on her own adventure? Have the girls grown too far apart or will their friendship survive the trials they face on their quest to find themselves?

Night Hoops

by Carl Deuker

Tenth grader Nick must deal with the challenges of his parents' divorce while trying to prove that he is good enough to play on the varsity basketball team. Nightly one-on-one games with his juvenile delinquent neighbor, Trent Dawson, help Nick mature on and off the court.

My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir

by Samantha Abeel

The author writes this first-person account of her life as a seventh-grade student with a learning disability. This honest portrayal focuses on the emotional and social toll of her struggle as she attempts to overcome her obstacles and find her way.

Homeless Bird

by Gloria Whelan

13-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage and suffers the destiny dictated by one of India's traditions. Facing a life of hardship at the hands of a spiteful mother-in-law, Koly's sewing skill offers her a means of salvation, hope, and love.

Airborn

by Kenneth Oppel

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard the Aurora, a luxury air ship. He befriends wealthy Kate de Vries, who is determined to prove her grandfather's claims of strange flying creatures on an uncharted island. Pirates and foul weather lead the remaining passengers to the same island, which also happens to be the pirate hideout. Can Matt and Kate find what they need and escape unharmed?

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm

by Nancy Farmer

In the year 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children disappear. Their parents call in the most unusual detectives, the Ear, the Eye and the Arm, to search for them.

Guys Read: Thriller by Jon Scieszka

The second volume in the Guys Read Library of Great Reading is chock-full of mystery, intrigue, and nefarious activity. Featuring some of the best writers around, and compiled by

certified guy Jon Scieszka, *GuysRead: Thriller* is a pulse-pounding collection of brand-new short stories, each one guaranteed to keep you riveted until the final page.

Counting by 7s

by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town

by Warren St. John

This young people's version of the adult bestseller, *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference*, is a complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh. The author explores how Clarkson, Georgia changed with the influx of refugees and how the dedication of Luma Mufleh and the entire Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community.

The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure

by Martin W. Sandler

In 1897, whaling in the Arctic waters off Alaska's coast was as dangerous as it was lucrative. And in that particular year, winter blasted early, bringing storms and ice packs that caught eight American whale ships and three hundred sailors off guard. Here is the incredible story of three men sent by President McKinley to rescue them. With the help of photographs and journal entries by one of the rescuers, Martin W. Sandler takes us on every step of their riveting journey, facing raging blizzards, killing cold, injured sled dogs, and setbacks to test the strongest of wills.