



# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Book List and Assignment



Rutherford Public Schools

Title	Author	Summary
<i>Artemis Fowl</i> or any other <i>Artemis Fowl</i> book	Colfer, Eoin	When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Curtis, Christopher Paul	Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
<i>Closed for the Season</i>	Hahn, Mary Downing	When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.
<i>Code Talker</i>	Bruchac, Joseph	After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.
<i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i>	Avi	Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.
<i>Football Hero</i>	Green, Tim	When twelve-year-old Ty's brother Thane is recruited out of college to play for the New York Jets, their Uncle Gus uses Ty to get insider information for his gambling ring, landing Ty and Thane in trouble with the Mafia.
<i>Handbook for Boys</i>	Myers, Walter Dean	Sixteen-year-old Jimmy, on probation for assault, talks about life with three old men in a Harlem barbershop and hears about the tools he can use to get what he wants.
<i>Invention of Hugo Cabret</i>	Selznick, Brian	When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toymaker and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. Great graphic novel for visual learners!
<i>Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery</i>	Feinstein, John	After winning a basketball reporting contest, eighth graders Stevie and Susan Carol are sent to cover the Final Four tournament, where they discover that a talented player is being blackmailed into throwing the final game.
<i>Little Women</i>	Alcott, Louisa May	The four March sisters--Meg, Jo, Amy, and Beth—grow up in nineteenth-century New England during the Civil War. Follow their adventures as they battle sickness, deal with social class issues, attend fancy balls, and figure out what to do about the cute boy next door!



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<i>Mr. Was</i>	Hautman, Pete	After his dying grandfather tries to strangle him, Jack Lund discovers a door that leads him fifty years into the past and involves him in events that determine his own future.
<i>Olive's Ocean</i>	Henkes, Kevin	On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.
<i>Red Pyramid</i> or any other <i>Kane Chronicles</i> book	Riordan, Rick	When their father gets taken captive by an evil Egyptian god named Set, Carter and Sadie must learn magic and join other gods and goddesses on a dangerous adventure to save their father and kill Set before he destroys the world!
<i>Ship Breaker</i>	Bacigalupi, Paolo	In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailor scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has to decide if he should strip the ship for its wealth or rescue the girl.
<i>Stormbreaker</i>	Horowitz, Anthony	After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.
<i>Stuck in Neutral</i>	Trueman, Terry	Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.
<i>The Espressologist</i>	Springer, Kristina	What does your coffee say about your personality? While working as a barista in a Chicago coffee bar, Jane introduces people who might make cute couples, based on what drinks they like to order. But can she find a coffee match boyfriend for herself?
<i>The One Where the Kid Nearly Jumps to His Death and Lands in California</i>	Hershey, Mary	Thirteen-year-old Alastair Hudson, who was in an accident five years earlier which resulted in the amputation of his leg, is always the first to make jokes about his missing limb, but after spending a summer with his estranged father and step-mother in California and learning how to swim, realizes there are better ways to deal with his disability.
<i>The Seeing Stone</i>	Holland, Kevin Crossley	Arthur, a thirteen-year-old boy in late twelfth-century England, tells how Merlin gave him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seem to have many parallels to his own.
<i>Uprising</i>	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old.



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**Writing Assignment:** A written book review will be completed in your reading class within the first week of school on a date determined by your teacher. Your reading teacher will review the process with you. The NJASK rubric will be used to grade your writing assignment. You will need to print out and complete the graphic organizer labeled “GO grades 6-8” located on this web site. Bring the graphic organizer to class the first day of school, Wednesday, September 7, 2011.