Dear Seventh Grade Students and Parents,

The Saxe Summer Reading Program was developed with the idea that summer reading would provide enjoyment and sharpen reading skills. It is an ideal time to enjoy some wonderful books. This year, students are required to read one book. English Language Arts teachers have provided a suggested list, but students may deviate from this list if the chosen book is similar in length and complexity. The completed note-taking pages will be turned in to your Language Arts teacher when you return in September and used as a basis for an assignment. You will be required to illustrate an in-depth understanding of the book.

***It is important to note that the maturity and reading ability of our students vary tremendously, and we ask parents to consider their child’s emotional development and to help him/her select a book for this assignment based on personal interest, content, and ability.

In addition, students are encouraged to read as many other books as possible. A recommended list will also be provided on the website from our school library. Book titles and authors are to be recorded on the attached Summer Reading Record. Parents are asked to sign and confirm the record.

On the first day of school, students are asked to bring in their Summer Reading Record and all of their notes. Language Arts teachers will be providing an assignment that first week. We look forward to hearing about all of your favorite books, and we thank parents in advance for supporting both the pleasures of reading and this worthwhile program.

We hope you enjoy the summer vacation!

Happy Reading!
Your Seventh Grade Language Arts Teachers

June 12, 2019
Students are required to read one book. A suggested list of favorites is below. Note taking sheets and other information are attached. Please complete this assignment bring the notes to school the first week of school.

The maturity and reading ability of our students vary tremendously, and we ask parents to consider their child’s emotional development and to help him/her select a book for this assignment based on personal interest, content, and ability.

*Indicates a higher level read

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**All Broken Pieces** by Ann E. Burg
Two years since he was evacuated out of Vietnam, twelve year old Matt Pin is struggling to suppress his memories of the deadly war that gripped his homeland. However, circumstances beyond his control are about to make the memories come flooding back and reveal a horrid secret Matt thought he had left back in Vietnam. (Realistic fiction)

**The Andromeda Strain** by Michael Crichton
In this biomedical thriller, for five days, American scientists struggle to identify and control a deadly new form of life. (Science fiction)

**The Boys in the Boat** by Daniel James Brown (adapted for young readers)
This is the true story of an American team's triumphant and unlikely win during Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics. (Nonfiction)

**Countdown** by Deborah Wiles
"Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall. It's 1962, and it seems the whole country is living in fear."--Dust jacket flap. (Historical fiction)

**The Crossover** by Kwame Alexander
Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game changer for the entire family. (Realistic Fiction)

**Dead End in Norvelt** by Jack Gantos
Winner of the 2012 Newberry Medal, set in the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore. (Historical fiction)

**Death Cloud** by Andrew Lane
In 1868, with his army office father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously “unwell,” fourteen year old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast home in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolic villain. (Mystery)
*The Eagle* by Rosemary Sutcliff
A young centurion ventures among the hostile tribes beyond the Roman Wall to recover the eagle standard of the Ninth, a legion which mysteriously disappeared under his father's command. (Historical fiction)

*Echo* by Paul Munoz Ryan
Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica—and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica. (Fiction)

*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
A book burner in a future fascist state finds out books are a vital part of a culture he never knew. He clandestinely pursues reading, until he is betrayed. (Science fiction)

*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen year old Matilda Cook is separated from her sick mother and is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic. (Historical fiction)

*Fish in a Tree* by Linda Mullaly Hunt
The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who’s ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn’t fit in. Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid. (Realistic fiction)

*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen
In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. (Realistic fiction)

*Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith
During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots. (Historical fiction)

*Gathering Blue* *(companion to The Giver)* by Lois Lowry
Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful guardians. (Fantasy)

*Guitar Notes* by Mary Amato
Tripp, who plays guitar only for himself, and Lyla, a cellist whose talent has already made her famous but not happy, form an unlikely friendship when they are forced to share a practice room at their high school. (Fiction)

*Heroes of the Valley* by Jonathan Stroud
Halli Sveinsson, a mischievous young man who does not fit in with his peers and siblings, plays a trick on Ragnor that goes too far, forcing him to embark on a hero's quest in which he will face highway robbers, monsters, an intriguing girl, and truths about his family and the legends he grew up with. (Fantasy)

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
Bilbo Baggins is chosen to go on an adventure to bring back the ring of power. (Fantasy)
**Little Women** by Louis May Alcott
The four March sisters learn hard life lessons while growing up during the Civil War. (Classic)

*Masterminds* by Gordon Korman (series)
The first book in the action-packed trilogy from *New York Times* bestselling author Gordon Korman is perfect for fans of *Stranger Things* and James Patterson. (Fantasy)

*Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt
While Doug struggles to be more than the thug that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, as they explore Audubon's art. (Realistic fiction)

*Rush for the Gold: Mystery at the Olympics* by John Feinstein
Two teenaged aspiring journalists solve a mystery at the 2012 Olympic Games, while one simultaneously competes for a gold medal in swimming. (Mystery)

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys
"As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull"—(Historical fiction)

*Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke
This is the story about two orphan brothers who run away to Venice, Italy. (Fantasy)

*Unstoppable* by Tim Green
If anyone understands the phrase "tough luck", it's Harrison. As a foster kid in a cruel home, he knows his dream of one day playing for the NFL is a long shot. Then Harrison's luck seems to change. In no time, he's practically unstoppable. But Harrison's good luck can't last forever.

*War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo
Joey the horse recalls his experiences growing up on an English farm, his struggle for survival as a cavalry horse during World War I, and his reunion with his beloved master. (Historical fiction)

*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1970s television game show, "The $20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. (Realistic fiction)

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
This stunning fantasy inspired by Chinese folklore is a companion novel to *Starry River of the Sky* and the *New York Times* bestselling and National Book Award finalist *When the Sea Turned to Silver*. (Historical fiction)

*Wish* by Barbara O'Connor
From award-winning author Barbara O'Connor comes a middle-grade novel about a girl who, with the help of a true-blue friend, a big-hearted aunt and uncle, and the dog of her dreams, unexpectedly learns the true meaning of family in the least likely of places. (Realistic fiction)

*Wolf Brother* by Michelle Paver
6,000 years in the past, twelve-year-old Torak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to travel to the Mountain of the World Spirit seeking a way to destroy a demon-possessed bear that threatens all the clans. (Fantasy)

**Note: Short synapses and summaries borrowed from Amazon.com and author webpages**
GRADE 7: SUMMER READING NOTES: WHAT I NOTICED...

**Directions:** Take notes on the book that you are reading. You will be able to refer to these notes when you write your assignment in class. Be sure to include specific details and significant quotations with page numbers.

**CHARACTERS:**
What traits and qualities have been associated with a particular character?  
How does a character interact or influence another character?  
Does a character grow and change because of a conflict or complication in the story?

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CONFLICT:
A conflict is a struggle that a character faces with an opposing force. This may be understood as man vs. self, man vs. man, man vs. society, or man vs. nature. What are the obstacles, setbacks or struggles that get in the way of the character's goal(s)?
Does the conflict get resolved? If so, how? If not, why?
# Grade Seven Summer Reading Record 2019

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<th>Author</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Rating 1-OK 5-Loved it!</th>
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Parent/Guardian acknowledgement of student’s summer reading:

_________________________________________________________signature ____________date