

### **Seventh Grade Summer Reading at Tahanto**

Dear Future Seventh Grader,

Below is a reading list from which you will choose TWO books to read this summer. You will be required to write a book review on each book. I have attached requirements for the book reviews. I have also attached a sample. They should be shared with me as a Google Doc by Tuesday, September 4, 2018 by 7:59 pm. **My email address is [nadams@bbrsd.org](mailto:nadams@bbrsd.org).** If you do not have access to the internet, I will accept hard copies, but please make every effort to submit the reviews electronically. These book reviews will count as two homework grades for quarter 1.

Enjoy your summer! I look forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Adams☺

Seventh Grade English Teacher

#### **Summer Reading List for Incoming Seventh Graders**

**\*When available, Lexile reading levels are noted.**

***The Maze Runner* series by James Dashner                      720L-770L**

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers--boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out--and no one's ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.

***Caught by the Sea: My Life on Boats* by Gary Paulsen                      760L**

Gary Paulsen takes readers along on his maiden voyage, proving that ignorance can be bliss. Also really stupid and incredibly dangerous. He tells of boats that have owned him—good, bad, and beloved—and how they got him through terrifying storms that he survived by sheer luck. His spare prose conjures up shark surprises and killer waves as well as moonlight on the sea, and makes readers feel what it's like to sail under the stars or to lie at anchor in a tropical lagoon where dolphins leap, bathed in silver. Falling in love with the ocean set Gary Paulsen on a lifelong learning curve and readers will understand why his passion has lasted to this day.

***Heat* by Mike Lupica                      940L**

Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat along with aspirations of leading his team all the way to the Little League World Series. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.

***Summer Ball* by Mike Lupica   910L**

When you're the smallest kid playing a big man's game, the challenges never stop—especially when your name is Danny Walker. Leading your travel team to the national championship may seem like a dream come true, but for Danny, being at the top just means the competition tries that much harder to knock him off. Now Danny's leaving Middletown for the summer and heading to Right Way basketball camp, where he's out of his element and maybe out of his league. The country's best ballers are in attendance, and Danny will need to raise his game if he wants to match up. But it won't be easy. Old rivals and new battles leave Danny wondering if he really has what it takes to stand tall.

***Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld        770L**

Tally t to turn sixteen, and she can't wait. Not for her license - for turning pretty. In Tally's world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty and catapults you into a high-tech paradise where your only job is to have a really great time. In just a few weeks Tally will be there. But Tally's new friend Shay isn't sure she wants to be pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world and it isn't very pretty. The authorities offer Tally the worst choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever.

***Pretties* by Scott Westerfeld (*Uglies* series, #2)                      860L**

***Specials* by Scott Westerfeld (*Uglies* series, #3)                      880L**

***Extras* by Scott Westerfeld (*Uglies* series, #4)                      790L**

***How to Be a World Explorer* by Lonely Planet**

How to be a World Explorer shows young readers how to venture thru' all the landscapes on earth - the air, over the seas, under the waves - plus how to find food and water in the wild, avoid deadly diseases, fight back against man-eating beasts! Packed with colourful quirky illust.; Essential tips and fun facts on survival in the great outdoors.

***Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech 770L**

As Sal entertains her grandparents with her friend Phoebe's outrageous story, her own story begins to unfold — the story of a thirteen-year-old girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother. In her own award-winning style, Sharon Creech intricately weaves together two tales, one funny, one bittersweet, to create a heartwarming, compelling, and utterly moving story of love, loss, and the complexity of human emotion.

***Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science* by Jason Fleischman 1030L**

Phineas Gage was truly a man with a hole in his head. Phineas, a railroad construction foreman, was blasting rock near Cavendish, Vermont, in 1848 when a thirteen-pound iron rod was shot through his brain. Miraculously, he survived to live another eleven years and become a textbook case in brain science.

***A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park 720L**

The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay.

***The 5th Wave* by Rick Yancey (includes some mature content) 690L**

After the 1st wave, only darkness remains. After the 2nd, only the lucky escape. And after the 3rd, only the unlucky survive. After the 4th wave, only one rule applies: trust no one. Now, it's the dawn of the 5th wave, and on a lonely stretch of highway, Cassie runs from Them. The beings who only look human, who roam the countryside killing anyone they see. Who have scattered Earth's last survivors. To stay alone is to stay alive, Cassie believes, until she meets Evan Walker. Beguiling and mysterious, Evan Walker may be Cassie's only hope for rescuing her brother—or even saving herself. But Cassie must choose: between trust and despair, between defiance and surrender, between life and death. To give up or to get up.

***The Infinite Sea* by Rick Yancey (*The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave series*, #2)**

***The Last Star* by Rick Yancey (*The 5<sup>th</sup> Wave series*, #3)**

***My Life with Chimpanzees* by Jane Goodall 910L**

From the time she was a girl, Jane Goodall dreamed of a life spent working with animals. Finally she had her wish. When she was twenty-six years old, she ventured into the forests of Africa to observe chimpanzees in the wild. On her expeditions she braved the dangers with leopards and lions in the African bush. And she got to know an amazing group of wild chimpanzees -- intelligent animals whose lives, in work and play and family relationships, bear a surprising resemblance to our own.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (contains some mature content) 730L**

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

***Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen 800L**

Wahoo Cray lives in a zoo. His father is an animal wrangler, so he's grown up with all manner of gators, snakes, parrots, rats, monkeys, snappers, and more in his backyard. The critters he can handle. His father is the unpredictable one. When his dad takes a job with a reality TV show called "Expedition Survival!", Wahoo figures he'll have to do a bit of wrangling himself — to keep his dad from killing Derek Badger, the show's boneheaded star, before the shoot is over.

***I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai, Christina Lamb 830L**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

***Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb* by Neal Bascomb 1070L**

The invasion begins at night, with German cruisers slipping into harbor, and soon the Nazis occupy all of Norway. They station soldiers throughout the country. They institute martial rule. And at Vemork, an industrial fortress high above a dizzying gorge, they gain access to an essential ingredient for the weapon that could end World War II: Hitler's very own nuclear bomb.

***Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (contains some mature content) 680L**

Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some *very* unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida. Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day? The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football-star brother, and adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school.

***Titanic: Voices From the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson**

**1040L**

Scheduled to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the tragic sinking of the TITANIC, a topic that continues to haunt and thrill readers to this day, this book by critically acclaimed author Deborah Hopkinson weaves together the voices and stories of real TITANIC survivors and witnesses to the disaster -- from the stewardess Violet Jessop to Captain Arthur Rostron of the CARPATHIA, who came to the rescue of the sinking ship. Packed with heartstopping action, devastating drama, fascinating historical details, loads of archival photographs on almost every page, and quotes from primary sources, this gripping story, which follows the TITANIC and its passengers from the ship's celebrated launch at Belfast to her cataclysmic icy end, is sure to thrill and move readers.

***Lost Trail: Nine Days Alone in the Wilderness* by Donn Fendler, Ben Bishop, Lynn Plourde**

In *Lost Trail*, more than 70 years after the event, Donn tells the story of survival and rescue from his own perspective. *Lost Trail* is a masterfully illustrated graphic novel that tells the story of a twelve year old boy scout from a New York City suburb who climbs Maine's mile-high Mt. Katahdin and in a sudden storm is separated from his friends and family. What follows is a nine-day adventure, in which Donn, lost and alone in the Maine wilderness with bugs, bears, and only a few berries to eat, struggles for survival.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli**      **590L**

From the day she arrives at quiet Mica High in a burst of color and sound, hallways hum "Stargirl." She captures Leo Borlock's heart with one smile. She sparks a school-spirit revolution with one cheer. The students of Mica High are enchanted. Until they are not. Leo urges her to become the very thing that can destroy her - normal.

***Love, Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli (sequel to *Stargirl*)**      **610L**

***Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* by Marc Aronson & Marina Budhos**      **1130L**

When this award-winning husband-and-wife team discovered that they each had sugar in their family history, they were inspired to trace the globe-spanning story of the sweet substance and to seek out the voices of those who led bitter sugar lives. The trail ran like a bright band from religious ceremonies in India to Europe's Middle Ages, then on to Columbus, who brought the first cane cuttings to the Americas. Sugar was the substance that drove the bloody slave trade and caused the loss of countless lives but it also planted the seeds of revolution that led to freedom in the American colonies, Haiti, and France. With songs, oral histories, maps, and over 80 archival illustrations, here is the story of how one product allows us to see the grand currents of world history in new ways.

***Percy Jackson & the Olympians Series* by Rick Riordan**      **590L-1120L**

Join the adventures of Percy Jackson and his demigod friends as they fight mythological monsters and the forces of the titan lord Kronos.

***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip H. Hoose    1000L**

On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South.

***The Great Molasses Flood: Boston, 1919* by Deborah Kops    900L**

A strange and sticky piece of history. January 15, 1919, started off as a normal day in Boston's North End. Workers took a break for lunch, children played in the park, trains made trips between North and South Stations. Then all of a sudden a large tank of molasses exploded, sending shards of metal hundreds of feet away, collapsing buildings, and coating the harborfront community with a thick layer of sticky-sweet sludge.

***Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys    700L**

Lina is just like any other fifteen-year-old Lithuanian girl in 1941. She paints, she draws, she gets crushes on boys. Until one night when Soviet officers barge into her home, tearing her family from the comfortable life they've known. Separated from her father, forced onto a crowded and dirty train car, Lina, her mother, and her young brother slowly make their way north, crossing the Arctic Circle, to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia.

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys    560L**

Winter, 1945. Four teenagers. Four secrets. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies...and war. As thousands of desperate refugees flock to the coast in the midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge, vying for passage aboard the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a ship that promises safety and freedom. Yet not all promises can be kept.

***Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard    740L**

The Reds are commoners, ruled by a Silver elite in possession of god-like superpowers. And to Mare Barrow, a seventeen-year-old Red girl from the poverty-stricken Stilts, it seems like nothing will ever change. That is, until she finds herself working in the Silver Palace. Here, surrounded by the people she hates the most, Mare discovers that, despite her red blood, she possesses a deadly power of her own. One that threatens to destroy the balance of power.

***Glass Sword (Red Queen series #2)*    770L**

***King's Cage (Red Queen series #3)*    700L**

***War Storm (Red Queen series #4)***

***The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien     1030L**

Written for J.R.R. Tolkien's own children, *The Hobbit* met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Now recognized as a timeless classic, this introduction to the hobbit Bilbo Baggins, the wizard Gandalf, Gollum, and the spectacular world of Middle-earth recounts of the adventures of a reluctant hero, a powerful and dangerous ring, and the cruel dragon Smaug the Magnificent.

***Holes* by Louis Sachar     660L**

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen     1020L**

Since it was first published in 1987, the story of thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson's survival following a plane crash has become a modern classic. Stranded in the desolate wilderness, Brian uses his instincts and his hatchet to stay alive for fifty-four harrowing days.

***The Reckoners Series* by Brandon Sanderson (contains some mature content)     680L-700L**

How far would you go for revenge if someone killed your father? If someone destroyed your city? If everything you ever loved was taken from you? David Charleston will go to any lengths to stop the Epics. But to exact revenge in this new world, David will need the Reckoners, a shadowy group of rebels bent on maintaining justice. And it turns out that the Reckoners might just need David, too.

***The Gender Game Series* by Bella Forrest (contains some mature content)**

A toxic river divides nineteen-year-old Violet Bates's world by gender. Women rule the East. Men rule the West. Welcome to the lands of Matrus and Patrus. Ever since the disappearance of her beloved younger brother, Violet's life has been consumed by an anger she struggles to control. Already a prisoner to her own nation, now she has been sentenced to death for her crimes. But one decision could save her life.

**\*All descriptions courtesy of [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com).**

## ***Writing an English Book Review***

The following are requirements for your book reviews:

- \*Written in Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced
- \*Catchy opening sentence (lead)
- \*Title of book, in *italics* or underlined
- \*Author of book
- \*Brief summary of book (do not give away the ending or include any spoilers)
- \*Two things you liked and two things you disliked and why
- \*Your favorite part of the book and why
- \*Audience (to whom would you recommend this book?). Think about who would want to read it: girls, boys, certain age groups, avid readers, reluctant readers, athletes, sports lovers, adventure seekers, etc.

### **Sample book review:**

#### **Book Review for *Rafa: My Story* by Rafael Nadal and John Carlin**

Is your favorite food olives? Are you afraid of dogs and the dark? If you answered yes, then you might want to read *Rafa: My Story* by Rafael Nadal and John Carlin. It is the riveting story of whom else, Rafa Nadal! The book details Rafa's life, from his days as a young kid trying to decide whether to play soccer or tennis, to his adulthood, where he has won multiple grand slam events. This book is such a page turner; not only do you learn about Rafa the tennis player, but you also learn about Rafa, the regular every day guy!

The story begins with details about Rafa's early life in Majorca, Spain. Various members of his family share stories about Rafa. Uncle Toni Nadal, his coach, tells many stories about how hard he was on Rafa when he was younger, but he stresses that everything he did, from making him rake the clay court when they were done practicing to

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telling him that he can always improve no matter how well he played, was meant to build his physical and mental toughness.

The book also describes what Rafa has had to do to become the best. While Rafa is proud of his successes, he also talks about the low times when he felt he couldn't move on from a loss. Rafa says that the support of his friends, family, and fans are what got him through the tough times.

There are so many things to like about this book! The chapters written by Rafa are the best. When Rafa tells the story, it really feels like it's from the heart. It feels so authentic. Also, it is cool to hear Rafa's family tell little stories about him from his childhood because you really get to know him. While it is hard to pick out anything bad about the book, I have to say I didn't like the chapters that the co-author, John Carlin, wrote because I wanted to hear the story from Rafa's point of view.

My favorite part of the book was the story that Rafa told about his 2007 Wimbledon loss to Roger Federer. After the match, he went to the locker room and cried. This shows how much winning meant to Rafa. However, instead of staying sad forever, he worked harder and won the tournament the next year. This shows how mentally tough he is.

This book is a great read. I would recommend this book to tennis lovers and to anyone who likes biographies, particularly about athletes. You cannot go wrong with this book! Read it today!