

Expeditionary Learning Middle School

Summer Reading for Incoming 7th Graders

“Reading makes immigrants of us all. It takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere.”

- Jean Rhys

Dear Incoming 7th Graders and Parents/Guardians,

The Expeditionary Learning Middle School 7th grade teachers wish you all a wonderful summer break. In an effort to provide you summer reading that is both interesting and enjoyable, we have included a list of book titles that appeal to a wide range of interests.

Here at ELMS, we push our students to strive for high achievement and to set new goals for themselves often. One goal is to be college and career ready; therefore, we ask that when choosing summer reading books, students challenge themselves by selecting books that are both high interest and at grade level. We encourage students to read aloud to their parents and have parents read aloud to students as well. Be sure to share thoughts and reactions to the reading with others. Great literature should be discussed and shared!

We challenge each student to read a minimum of **two books** this summer. Of course, we encourage all students to continue to read on a regular basis and to discover new authors and books to enjoy over your summer break! For **two** of the books read, please complete a novel outline (attached). In September, your new ELA teacher will be collecting these outlines for extra credit and prizes.

Have a great summer and enjoy this opportunity to read great books! We look forward to discussing your selections with you in September.

Sincerely,

7th Grade Teachers

7th Grade Summer Reading List

Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women (or Little Men)

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England.

Avi. The Barn

In an effort to fulfill their dying father's last request, nine-year-old Ben and his brother and sister construct a barn on their land in the Oregon Territory.

Barron, T.A. The Lost Years of Merlin

To discover his identity and the secret of his powers, a nameless boy must escape to the mist shrouded isle of Fincayra, the enchanted land between earth and sky.

Blackwood, Gary L. The Shakespeare Stealer (or any in series)

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet" but he discovers instead the meaning of loyalty.

Blume, Judy. Tiger Eyes

After Davey's father is killed in a hold-up, she and her mother and younger brother visit relatives in New Mexico. Here Davey is befriended by a young man who helps her find the strength to carry on and conquer her fears.

Bosch, Pseudonymous. The Name of This Book is Secret (or others by author)

The story is secret too! But the secret about the mysterious vials and vanishing magicians may be revealed.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. The Secret Garden or The Little Princess

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Chabon, Michael. Summerland

Ethan Field, the worst baseball player in the history of the game, finds himself recruited by a 100 year-old scout to help a band of fairies triumph over an ancient enemy.

Colfer, Eoin. The Eternity Code: Artemis Fowl: Book 3 (or any in series)

Artemis Fowl's father has made him promise to give up his life of crime and Artemis must go along with it, but not before he completes one last scheme; a super computer that will render all human technology obsolete.

Duncan, Lois. The Third Eye (or any by author)

High school senior Karen, who worries that her psychic powers will make her seem different from other people, is frightened at first when a young policeman asks her to use her gift to help the police locate missing children.

Funke, Cornelia. Inkheart

As Meggie's father reads aloud from Inkheart, one of the characters escapes the bounds of the book and appears in the living room. Meggie learns to harness magic so that she can change the course of the story.

Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book

After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.

Green, Bette. Summer of My German Soldier

Sheltering an escaped prisoner of war is the beginning of shattering experiences for a young girl in Arkansas.

Keesler, Liz. The Tail of Emily Windsnap

After convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world.

Hiaasen, Carl. Flush

On Father's Day, Noah visits his dad at the local jail. Dad is a feisty environmentalist with a short fuse. Convinced that the *Coral Queen* was dumping raw sewage into the harbor, he decided to take matters into his own hands

Higson, Charlie. Silverfin: Young James Bond Series (or others in series)

In this thrilling prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, readers meet a young boy whose inquisitive mind and determination set him on a path that will someday take him across the globe in pursuit of dangerous criminals.

Hobbs, Will. Ghost Canoe (or any by author)

After a sailing ship breaks up in a wreck, Nathan, the fourteen-year-old son of the lighthouse keeper, refuses to believe there were no survivors. Unexplainable happenings lead him searching for clues.

Kinney, Jeff. Roderick Rules (Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series #2)

Unfortunately for Greg, his older brother, Rodrick, knows all about the incident Greg wants to keep under wraps. But secrets have a way of getting out... when a diary is involved.

L'Engle, Madeleine. A Ring of Endless Light (or any by author)

During the summer her grandfather is dying of leukemia and death seems all around, fifteen-year-old Vicky finds comfort with the pod of dolphins with which she has been doing research.

Levine, Gail Carson. The Wish (or any by author)

When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.

Lewis, C.S. The Magician's Nephew (or any in *Narnia* series)

Asian created Narnia and gave the gift of speech to its animals.

Lipsyte, Robert. One Fat Summer (or any by author)

An overweight fourteen-year-old boy experiences a turning point summer in which he learns to stand up for himself.

Lupica, Mike. Travel Team (or any by author)

After he is cut from his travel basketball team—the very same team that his father once led to national prominence—Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

Myers, Walter Dean. Hoops

A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

Nimmo, Jenny. Charlie Bones and the Time Twister

The new semester at Bloors Academy holds a nasty surprise for Charlie when Henry Yewbeam appears, twisted through time from 1916.

Nix, Garth. Mister Monday (or any in series)

Fantasy master Garth Nix dreams up a world where time mixes with place – and one boy must enter it to recover one of seven all-powerful keys -- in this first mind-bending installment of *The Keys to the Kingdom*.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. Haunting

When her mother inherits an old plantation house in the Louisiana Countryside, fifteen-year-old Lia seeks to rid it of the evil spirit that haunts it.

Paolini, Christopher. Eragon (or *Eldest* or *Brisingsr*)

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, power, peopled with dragons, elves and monsters.

Paterson, Katherine. Of Nightingales that Weep

vain daughter of a Samurai finds her comfortable life ripped apart when opposing warrior clans begin a struggle for imperial control of Japan.

Riordan, Rick. The Maze of Bones (The 39 Clues Series #1) (or any in series)

Minutes before she died, Grace Cahill changed her will, leaving her descendants and impossible decision: “You have a choice – one million dollars or a clue.”

Sachar, Louis. Small Steps

In Sachar’s companion to *Holes*, Armpit is home from Camp Green Lake and trying to turn his life around...

Snicket, Lemony. A Series of Unfortunate Events (any in series)

Join Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire as they try to evade the evil plots of the treacherous villain, Count Olaf.

Snyder, Zilpha. The Egypt Game

A group of children, entranced with the study of Egypt, play their own Egypt game, are visited by a secret oracle, become involved in a murder, and befriend the Professor before they move on to new interests, such as Gypsies.

Steinbeck, John. The Pearl

A Mexican folk tale about a man who finds a great pearl and its traumatic effect on him and his family.

Tolkein, J.R.R. The Hobbit (or any in *Lord of the Rings* series)

The adventures of Bilbo Baggins including his encounters with trolls, goblins, dwarves, and elves.

Verne, Jules. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

The tale of the mysterious Captain Nemo, his electric submarine, and the crew that farmed the bottom of the sea.

Name: _____ Date _____

ELA

Incoming Grade 7

Summer Book Choice #1

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre:

- Realistic fiction
- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Mystery
- Non-fiction
- Adventure
- Historical fiction
- Biography

Choose 3 characters to describe.

Characters:	Description:

Tell how a **character** has changed over the course of the novel:

Setting (Time and place):

Conflict (Describe the main character's problem):

Resolution (Describe how the problem was solved):

Plot (Describe the main events in the order that they occur in the story):

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Theme (What lesson has the character learned over the course of the novel?):

Review: I do/do not recommend this book because... (Support with details from the text)

Rate the book you read on a scale of 1 to 5.

<input type="text"/>
Rating (Low 1-5 High)

Name _____ Date _____

ELA

Incoming Grade 7

Summer Book Choice #2

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre:

- Realistic fiction Mystery Historical fiction
 Fantasy Non-fiction Biography
 Science fiction Adventure

Choose 3 characters to describe.

Characters:	Description:

Tell how a **character** has changed over the course of the novel:

Setting (Time and place):

Conflict (Describe the main character's problem):

Resolution (Describe how the problem was solved):

Plot (Describe the main events in the order that they occur in the story):

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Theme (What lesson has the character learned over the course of the novel?):

Review: I do/do not recommend this book because... (Support with details from the text)

Rate the book you read on a scale of 1 to 5.

<input type="text"/>
Rating (Low 1-5 High)

