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Seventh Grade Recommended Reading List 2020-2021 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Fiction

Blake, Ashley Herring. *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*. Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

Bunker, Lisa. *Felix Yz*. Felix Yz chronicles the final month before an experimental procedure meant to separate him from the fourth-dimensional creature Zyx, with whom he was accidentally fused as a young child.

Calendar, Kacen. *King and the Dragonflies*. "In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself"-- Provided by publisher.

Day, Christine. *I Can Make this Promise*. "When twelve-year-old Edie finds letters and photographs in her attic that change everything she thought she knew about her Native American mother's adoption, she realizes she has a lot to learn about her family's history and her own identity"-- Provided by publisher.

Hardinge, Frances. *The Lie Tree* (TWEEN). On an island off the south coast of Victorian England, Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth.

Hautman, Pete. *Slider*. Hoping to win a cash prize in a pizza-eating contest after racking up a tab on his mother's credit card, David must juggle his competitive eating training with the responsibility of looming after his autistic younger brother.

Hennessey, M. G. *The Other Boy*. Twelve year-old Shane Woods is just a regular boy. He loves pitching for his baseball team, working on his graphic novel, and hanging out with his best friend, Josh. But Shane is keeping something private, something that might make a difference to his friends and teammates, even Josh.

Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

Lee, Stacey. *Outrun the Moon* (TWEEN). In 1906 San Francisco, Mercy Wong thought getting into St. Clare's School for Girls was the hard part. When a historic earthquake strikes and destroys her home and school, she must find her place and how to help and heal.

Lu, Marie. *Warcross* (TWEEN). After hacking into the Warcross Championships' opening game to track illegal betting, bounty hunter Emika Chen is asked by the game's creator to go undercover to investigate a security problem.

Moore, David Barclay. *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*. In the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem Community Center.

Nunez, J. M. M. *Birdie & Me*. "Ever since their free-spirited mama died ten months ago, twelve-year-old Jack and her gender creative nine-year-old brother, Birdie, have been living with their fun-loving Uncle Carl, but now their conservative Uncle Patrick insists on being their guardian which forces all four of them to confront grief, prejudice, and loss, all while exploring what 'home' really means"-- Provided by publisher.

Oh, Axie. *Rebel Seoul*. In 2199 Korea, Jaewon is partnered with supersoldier Tera, but their love is threatened when Jaewon must decide whether to remain loyal to the totalitarian government, to the nationalist rebels his father followed, or to the crime syndicate staging a coup.

Okorafor, Nnedi. *Akata Witch* (series, TWEEN). An American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, Sunny Nwazue moves back to Nigeria, where she learns she has latent magical powers, which she and three gifted friends use to catch a serial killer.

Older, Daniel José. *Shadowshaper* (TWEEN). When the murals on the walls of her Brooklyn neighborhood start to change in front of her, Sierra Santiago realizes something strange is going on. She discovers her family are shadowshapers and finds herself in a battle with an evil anthropologist.

Rames, Lisa Moore. *A Good Kind of Trouble*. After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.

Reynolds, Jason. *The Boy in the Black Suit*. Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood and, while attending and assisting with funerals, begins to accept her death and his responsibilities as a man.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *The Dreamer*. A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prizewinning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.

Watson, Renée. *Piecing Me Together* (TWEEN). Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing study abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

Wegelius, Jakob. *The Murderer's Ape*. When her best friend, the sailor Henry Koskela, is falsely accused of murder, a gorilla named Sally Jones visits the run-down docks of Lisbon, embarks on a dizzying journey across the seven seas, and calls on the Maharaja of Bhapur's magnificent court—all in an attempt to clear Henry's name.

Westerfield, Scott. *The Uglies* (series). Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.



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Nonfiction

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. *Becoming Kareem: Growing Up on and off the Court* (B ABDUL). An autobiography that covers how Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's upbringing and life experiences led him to become an activist for social change.

Charleyboy, Lisa and Leatherdale, Mary Beth (eds.). *Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices* (970.1 DRE). Anthology of art and writings from some of the most groundbreaking Native artists working in North America today, including authors, visual artists, chefs, comedians and photographers.

Chen, Da. *Girl Under a Red Moon* (B CHEN). In the village of Yellow Stone in 1960s China, a family struggles to adapt to the political change in the country and their two children decide to look for a different life elsewhere.

Heiligman, Deborah. *Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers* (B VAN GOGH). The deep and enduring friendship between Vincent and Theo Van Gogh shaped both brothers' lives. They shared everything, swapping stories of lovers and friends, successes and disappointments, dreams and ambitions.

Hendrix, John. *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* (B BONHOEFFER). Adolf Hitler's Nazi party is gaining strength and becoming more menacing every day. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pastor upset by the complacency of the German church toward the suffering around it, forms a breakaway church to speak out against the established political and religious authorities. When the Nazis outlaw the church, he escapes as a fugitive. Struggling to reconcile his faith and the teachings of the Bible with the Nazi Party's evil agenda, Bonhoeffer decides that Hitler must be stopped by any means possible.

Jarrow, Gail. *Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and the War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America* (791.44 JAR). Panic was induced when listeners believed Orson Welles' radio broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" to be news of an alien invasion. Explore the context in which the broadcast was aired and why it was so convincing.

Kamkwambe, William. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (621.45 KAM). William Kamkwamba describes the drought that struck his tiny village in Malawi, his subsequent interest in science, and his idea to build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Miller, Michael. *Fake News. Separating Truth from Fiction* (TEEN 070.43 MIL). While popularized by President Donald Trump, the term "fake news" actually originated toward the end of the 19th century. Since then, it has come to encompass a broad universe of news stories and marketing strategies ranging from outright lies, propaganda, and conspiracy theories to hoaxes, opinion pieces, and satire—all facilitated and manipulated by social media platforms. This title explores journalistic and fact-checking standards, Constitutional protections, and real-world case studies, helping readers identify the mechanics, perpetrators, motives, and psychology of fake news. A final chapter explores methods for assessing and avoiding the spread of fake news.

Prager, Sarah. *Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World* (TEEN 306.76 PRA). World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals -- and you've never heard of many of them. Queer author and activist Sarah Prager delves deep into the lives of 23 people who fought, created, and loved on their own terms. From high-profile figures like Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt to the trailblazing gender-ambiguous Queen of Sweden and a bisexual blues singer who didn't make it into your history books, these true stories uncover a rich queer heritage that encompasses every culture, in every era.

Sandler, Martin W. *1919: The Year That Changed America* (973.913 SAN). Some of the most important issues of our time were no less important 100 years ago. America in 1919, at the close of World War I, was shaken from the events of large-scale warfare, fearing a Communist takeover, and facing an incredible amount of social and political change. From Prohibition to women's suffrage, the labor strikes to the violence of the Red Summer and the Red Scare, this book explores each major movement of 1919.

Graphic Novels

Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*. Thirteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

Allison, John. *Bad Machinery: The Case of the Unwelcome Visitor* (TWEEN series). Are mystery-solving British school kids any match for a soul-sucking creep lurking around their neighborhood?

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid* (series). Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

Ha, Gene. *Mae* (TWEEN series). Abbie discovered a portal to a fantasy world as a child. Now she has returned home a hero, but her tales are too hard for her sister Mae to believe—until the monsters start to cross over to our world.

Inzer, Christine Mari. *Diary of a Tokyo Teen: A Japanese-American Girl Travels to the Land of Trendy Fashion, High-Tech Toilets and Maid Cafes* (TWEEN). Just before her 16th birthday, Christine spends the summer in Japan with her grandparents, journaling all the sights, sounds, and amazing characters she meets along the way.

Larson, Hope. *All Summer Long* (TWEEN series). Thirteen-year-old Bina faces her first summer without her best friend, Austin, who has left for soccer camp.

Lewis, John. *March* (nonfiction graphic novel series). A firsthand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

Meconis, Dylan. *Queen of the Sea*. Royal intrigue and power grabs, mysterious orphans and islands, shipwrecks and secrets, inspired by the childhood of Queen Elizabeth I.

O'Neill, Katie. *The Tea Dragon Society* (series). After discovering a lost Tea Dragon in the marketplace, apprentice blacksmith Greta learns about the dying art form of Tea Dragon caretaking from the kind tea shop owners.

Palacio, R.J. *White Bird*. A grandmother recalls her childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

Stevenson, Noelle. *Nimona* (TWEEN). Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc.

Waid, Mark. *Archie: The New Riverdale* (TWEEN series). The bite and hilarious edge of Archie's original tales in a modern world.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Spill Zone* (TWEEN series). Three years ago an event destroyed the small city of Poughkeepsie, forever changing reality within its borders. Uncanny manifestations and lethal dangers now await anyone who enters the Spill Zone, including Addison, who photographs the Zone's twisted attractions to provide for her sister and herself.