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Seventh Grade Recommended Reading List 2021-2022 | oppl.org/kids-lists

Fiction

Bauer, Joan. *Raising Lummie*. Newly-orphaned and living with the half sister she hardly knows, twelve-year-old Olive rediscovers hope when she starts training a guide dog puppy.

Blake, Ashley Herring. *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*. In the aftermath of the tornado that destroyed her house and displaced her family, Ivy feels invisible and ignored--and what's worse, her notebook filled with secret drawings of girls holding hands is missing.

Callendar, 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.

Cisneros, Ernesto. *Efrén Divided*. Worrying about his undocumented parents, who have worked hard to secure a safe life for their family, a Mexican-American boy struggles to find his inner courage when his beloved mother is arrested and deported.

Colbert, Brandy. *The Only Black Girls in Town*. In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.

Day, Christine. *I Can Make this Promise*. When 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.

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 caring for his autistic younger brother.

Hennessey, M. G. *The Other Boy*. 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 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 destroys her home and school, she must find her place and how to help and heal.

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

Nuñez, J. M. M. *Birdie & Me*. Ever since their free-spirited mama died ten months ago, Jack and her gender creative sibling, Birdie, have been living with their fun-loving Uncle Carl. 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.

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* (TWEEN, series). 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.

Ramée, 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.

Sumner, Jamie. *Tune It Out*. Separated from her mother by child services, a girl with a sensory processing disorder struggles to start over at an elite private school, where the support of new friends, a helpful counselor, family members and her evolving relationship with music help her find her voice.

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

Westerfeld, 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.

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). Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor upset by the complacency of the German church toward the suffering caused by the Nazi party. Struggling to reconcile his faith and the teachings of the Bible with the government's evil agenda, Bonhoeffer decides that Hitler must be stopped by any means possible.

Hudson, Wade, editor. *The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth* (305.8 TAL). Thirty diverse and award-winning authors and illustrators capture frank discussions about racism, identity, and self-esteem.

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 out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts.

Macy, Sue. *Breaking Through: How Female Athletes Shattered Stereotypes in the Roaring Twenties* (796.082 MAC). A rare and fascinating glimpse into the journey of women's rights through the lens of women in sports during the pivotal decade of the 1920s. Featuring bold and talented heroines, this book documents

how the social issues and morals of the decade--from politics to segregation to the media--helped shape the changing narratives around women and alter the course of history entirely.

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.

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.

Bowles, David. *Rise of the Halfling King* (series). Monstrous snakes and impossible tests are a lot for a boy to handle, but Sayam is brave and has a loyal monkey, a wise grandmother, and magical knowledge on his side!

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.

Gownley, Jimmy. *7 Good Reasons Not to Grow Up*. Kirby creates online videos showing kids why growing up isn't so great, but when his best friend, Raja, finds out that Kirby isn't the person he's pretending to be, they may be forced to grow up sooner than they think.

LaMotte, Lily. *Measuring Up*. Having just moved to Seattle from Taiwan, twelve-year-old Cici enters a cooking competition, but she worries because she only knows how to cook Taiwanese food.

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.

Layne, Aliza. *Beetle & the Hollowbones*. Caught between the worlds of magical sorceresses and spirits who are trapped in the mall for eternity, goblin-witch Beetle races to rescue her ghost friend at the same time she encourages her aunt's apprentice to stand up for herself.

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.

Riess, Natalie. *Dungeon Critters*. Join a tight-knit squad of animal companions on a wild adventure investigating a conspiracy among the furry nobility.

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 city of Poughkeepsie, forever changing reality within its borders. Lethal dangers and uncanny manifestations now await anyone who enters the Spill Zone, including Addison, who illegally photographs the Zone's twisted attractions to provide for her sister and herself.