



## JC ELLIS K-8 SUMMER READING

Students entering 7th grade

# 7<sup>th</sup>

Read as many books as you can, but read a **minimum of 3 books** (2 literary fiction and one informational/biography/nonfiction book. Here is a list of suggestions, but others on a seventh grade level will be acceptable. Upon returning to school in August, you will take the *Accelerated Reader* test.

Searchable AR book list

<http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>

### **Informational/Biography/Nonfiction**

*Music* (Eyewitness) Ardley, Neil This book details how music is made by playing instruments, from the most primitive to the most modern.

*Tell Them We Remember: The Story of The Holocaust* Bachrach, Susan. The U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's collection of artifacts and pictures tells the story of the Holocaust.

*Sand And Fog: Adventures In Southern Africa* Brandenburg, J. This photojournalist's book recounts the author's journey through the natural wonders of southern Africa

*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* Coerr, Eleanor. This book tells the story of Sadako Sasaki, who was two when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. As a result of radiation from the bomb, Sadako developed leukemia.

*Why Do Buses Come in Threes: The Hidden Mathematics of Everyday Life*. Eastaway, Rob; Jeremy Wyndham; and Tim Rice. Why can't I find a four-leaf clover? How can I win without cheating? How many people watch Friends? This intriguing book explains how math and the laws of probability are at work in our lives.

*Phineas Gage* Fleischman, John. - his is the gruesome, true account of an accident that happened to a railroad foreman in Vermont in 1848. A 13 pound iron rod shot through his brain. He survived but became a text book case in brain science.

*Uncommon Champions: Fifteen Athletes Who Battled Back* Kaminsky, Mary and Bobby Valentine. This book tells the stories of courageous athletes who battled adversity to find success.

*Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues* McKissack, Patricia. Stories and colorful quotes fill the pages of this fascinating history of the Negro baseball leagues before desegregation in 1947. The book highlights the talented players and focuses on their second-rate living and playing conditions.

*It's Disgusting and We Ate It! True Food Facts from Around the World and Throughout History* Solheim, James. Take a lot of interesting facts about eating habits from around the world, blend in fun poems, and sprinkle in great illustrations to cook up a good read about food.

*If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge*. Aronson, Marc

What are the secrets of the ancient stone circle? Were the carefully placed stones a burial site, an ancient calendar, a place of Druid worship...or even a site of sacrifice? Revolutionizing our understanding of Stonehenge, through exploration of the surrounding landscape for clues about the stones was an idea first suggested by a visitor from Madagascar. The results have been breathtaking: The team recently unearthed the largest Neolithic village ever found in England.

*The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle*. Wulffson, Don. Brief, factual stories of how various familiar things were invented, many by accident, make for an informative read.

The Great Fire. Murphy, Jim. Why Chicago's fire of 1871 was one of the most catastrophic in U.S. history

Who Wants Pizza? Thornhill, Jan. An entertaining guide to the history, science and culture of food

Frozen Man. Getz, David. Illustrated by Peter McCarty This book recounts the discovery of a man's remains found frozen in the Alps, and describes how scientists determined that he had died five thousand years earlier.

Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth. Giblin . James Cross  
Edwin Booth and his younger brother John Wilkes Booth were, in many ways, two of a kind. In other respects, the two brothers were very different. Edwin was more introspective, while John was known for his intensity. They stood at opposite poles politically, as well: Edwin voted for Abraham Lincoln; John was an ardent advocate of the Confederacy. The author draws on firsthand accounts of family members, friends, and colleagues to create vivid images of Edwin Booth and his brother John Wilkes, the man who shot Abraham Lincoln.

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot" Tunnell, Michael O. World War II was over, and Berlin was in ruins. US Air Force pilot Gail Halvorsen wanted to bring some happiness to the children of the city- but what could one man in one plane do?

The Crossing: How George Washington Saved the American Revolution. Murphy, Jim 1776, and George Washington and his army of rebellious American colonists are bolstered by its stunning victories over the British at Lexington and Concord. But now, the Americans face the threat of brutal British retaliation. George Washington, who has little experience, is unanimously chosen as commander in chief in hopes he can unite the colonies.

Meat-Eating Plants. Souza , Dorothy M. Along with vivid photographs, this book describes the ways different carnivorous plants lure and catch their prey.

Mysteries & Marvels of Science. Howell, Laura; Sarah Khan and Phil Clarke Digital illustrations and detailed photographs with informative text tell the story of many of science's wonders, from quarks to electromagnetic waves. Science has expanded the frontiers of knowledge and the current and future applications of these discoveries will fascinate and amaze readers in this Usborne Mysteries and Marvels book.

Science in Ancient Rome. , Jacqueline L. This book explores many areas of Roman science including building structures, building materials, health care, and measuring time. "Science of the Past" reveals the large debt owed by modern scientists to the healers, mathematicians, stargazers, explorers, and thinkers of the ancient world.

Toilets, Toasters & Telephones: The How and Why of Everyday Objects. Rubin, Susan Goldman  
Thomas Crapper, a plumber, developed a type of flushing toilet in 1872 that carried his name. He perfected the cistern-the tank that holds the water for flushing. And he made flushing quieter. Women at the turn of the century, sensitive to bodily noises, wanted a really silent toilet. Crapper did such fine work that he became the royal plumber and installed more than thirty toilets in Sandringham Castle for Queen Victoria's son Edward, Prince of Wales

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**Literary/Fiction**

The Lost Hero (The Heroes of Olympus #1) by Rick Riordan, John Rocco (Illustrator)  
Jason has a problem. He doesn't remember anything before waking up in a bus full of kids on a field trip. Apparently he has a girlfriend named Piper and a best friend named Leo. They're all students at a boarding school for "bad kids." What did Jason do to end up here? And where is here, exactly?

Scat by Carl Hiaasen - When an irritating biology teacher named Mrs. Starch goes missing in Black Vine Swamp, Nick and Marta suspect Duane Scrod Jr., the rude pimply kid she's been pricking on in class. But life gets pretty twisted, and our heroes encounter illegal oil drilling, preserved rats, real macaws, and a Floridian endangered species.

Schooled by Gordon Korman - Capricorn, 13, lives with his hippie grandmother. He's never been to school, never watched TV, and doesn't even own a phone. When his grandmother breaks her hip and is sent to rehab for several weeks, Cap stays with a social worker and is sent to the local junior high school. There he is introduced to iPods, cell phones, spit balls, and harassment. Cap, with his long frizzy hair, hemp shoes, and serene ignorance of everything most of the kids care about, is the "weirdest of the weird." As is customary, the biggest nerd gets nominated to run for class president, which offers extra humiliation opportunities! Will Cap turn out to be the greatest president in the school's history or be the biggest punch line?

Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by E.L. Konigsburg Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her granduncles have been building in their backyard for over forty years.

The Last Straw (Diary of a Wimpy Kid #3) by Jeff Kinney Greg Heffley will never change his wimpy ways. Somebody just needs to explain that to Greg's father. You see, Frank Heffley actually thinks he can get his son to toughen up, and he enlists Greg in organized sports and other "manly" endeavors. Of course, Greg is able to easily sidestep his father's efforts to change him. But when Greg's dad threatens to send him to military academy, Greg realizes he has to shape up . . . or get shipped out

The Juvie Three by Gordon Korman Three boys are serving time in juvenile detention centers until they get a second chance. Doug Healey, a former delinquent himself is running their halfway house in New York City, until he's accidentally knocked unconscious. Terrified of the consequences, the boys drop him at a hospital and run away. Awakening, Healey has no memory of the boys, who hatch a crazy scheme to save their future and continue as if their counselor never left.

Rules by Cynthia Lord - Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"—in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts of the other kids in her class. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. When a new teacher, whose face is blotched with a startling white patch, starts at their school, Maleeka can see there is bound to be trouble for her too. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata Cracker is a German shepherd trained to work as an army dog sniffing out bombs and the enemy. Together, he and his handler, Rick Hanski, become the best team in Vietnam. When Rick is injured and returns to the states, he tries to locate Cracker.

Sweetgrass Basket by Marlene Carvell In alternating passages, two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, established in 1879 to educate Native Americans, as they try to assimilate into white culture and one of them is falsely accused of stealing.

The Maze Runner (The Maze Runner #1) by James Dashner "If you ain't scared, you ain't human." 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.

Kaleidoscope Eyes by Jen Bryant When Lyza helps her dad clean out her late grandfather's house, a mysterious surprise brightens the sad task. In Gramp's dusty attic, Lyza discovers three maps, carefully folded and stacked, bound by a single rubber band. On top, an envelope says "For Lyza ONLY." What could this possibly be? It takes the help of her two best friends, Malcolm and Carolann, to figure out that the maps reveal three possible spots in their own New Jersey town where Captain Kidd (the Captain Kidd, seventeenth century pirate) may have buried a treasure. Can three thirteen-year-olds actually conduct a secret treasure hunt?

Fly Girl by Sherri Smith: All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II, and the Army forms the WASP Women Airforce Service Pilots. Ida has a chance to fulfill her dream if she's willing to use her light skin to pass as a white girl. She wants to fly more than anything, but Ida soon learns that denying one's self and family is a heavy burden, and ultimately it's not what you do but who you are that's most important.

Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Meyers - Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Birdy and the others in the Civilian Affairs Battalion are supposed to help secure and stabilize the country and successfully interact with the Iraqi people. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR.

Football Genius by Tim Green - Troy White can predict any football play before it happens. And when his single mom gets a job with the Atlanta Falcons, Troy knows it's his big chance to help them out of their slump—and finally prove his football genius. But unless Troy can convince star linebacker Seth Halloway that he's telling the truth, the Falcons' championship—and Troy's mom's job—are in serious jeopardy.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton - According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers—until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Young - Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race that will determine the future of the human race.

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix - In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong

**Any:**

Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins

The Chronicles of Narnia (Chronological Order) series by C.S. Lewis

Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer