



## Rising 7th Grade Summer Reading

**3 books: 1 required and 2 free choice**

**Required: Choose between:**

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel DeFoe

*Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome

Since most children of this age can read the majority of grade-level books for themselves, the following list will include a majority of independent reads, though there are a few that can be chosen as family read alouds, as [research](#) has proven that reading aloud into adulthood has a beneficial effect. Keep in mind that a Listening Vocabulary is almost always much higher than a Reading Vocabulary. Thus, you can read aloud a book that is above current school reading level, and most children will be able to understand it. After reading a short passage (and reading the illustrations as well), we suggest that you informally ask your child to tell back what he or she has heard, in order to improve comprehension, sequencing, synthesis, concentration, and enjoyment. Picture narrations are also a fun way to enliven the story while increasing comprehension.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but rather some of our particular favorites! There are obviously many more good books that are available. If you seek advice from a librarian, note that the terminology most librarians will best understand is “classic literature,” which for our purposes we call [“living” books](#). Remember that, with regard to all book suggestions, it is always your responsibility as the parent to assess a book’s suitability for you and your family.

We have included books which employ fantastical themes, due to the fact that we encourage children to enjoy the proper use of the imagination. This is an important aspect of development, and one in which parents are urged to give their child guidance. That is, your child will be looking to you to help define the lines of fantasy versus reality and the proper guidelines therein.

If a title is not in your local library, you may want to check used bookstores, both [physical](#) and [virtual](#). A great summer activity is to visit some of the physical bookstores in your area and see what they have to offer. A must-see is The Story Shop in Monroe, Georgia! Do not neglect the [power](#) of [audiobooks](#), as they are great opportunities for everyone to listen and bond as a family. They can also help with books set in a different locale, as the narrators are often from that particular culture. Enjoy!

On the sheet enclosed, please keep track of the books your child reads or those that you have read to him or her this summer. You will give this record to your child’s teacher at the beginning of school.



## Summer Reading List for Rising 7th Grade Students

Alcott, Louisa May  
Anderson, Laurie Halse  
Andreola, Karen  
Avi  
Babbitt, Natalie  
Burnett, Frances Hodgson  
Carroll, Lewis  
Carter, Forest  
Crane, Stephen  
DeFoe, Daniel  
Dickens, Charles  
Farley, Carin  
Forbes, Esther  
George, Jean Craighead  
Gipson, Fred  
Grahame, Kenneth  
Henry, Marguerite  
Kamkwamba, William  
Karwoski, Gail  
Krensky, Stephen  
LasCasas, Bartholomew  
Lunn, Janet  
MacDonald, George  
Magnuson, Sally  
Marshall, Catherine  
McGill, Alice  
McPherson, Joyce  
Neville, Emily  
O'Dell, Scott  
O'Hara, Mary  
Park, Linda Sue  
Pyle, Howard  
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan  
Ryan, Pam Munoz  
Sewall, Anna  
Stevenson, Robert Louis  
Tolkien, J.R.R.  
Travers, P.L.  
Ullman, James Ramsey  
Verne, Jules  
Farley, Walter

*Jo's Boys, Eight Cousins, Jack and Jill, Little Men*  
*Fever 1793*  
*Beautiful Girlhood*  
*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*  
*Tuck Everlasting*  
*The Secret Garden*  
*Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*  
*The Education of Little Tree*  
*Red Badge of Courage*  
*Robinson Crusoe*  
*The Cricket on the Hearth, A Christmas Carol, A Tale of Two Cities*  
*Duel in the Wilderness (about George Washington-French/Indian War)*  
*Johnny Tremain*  
*Julie of the Wolves*  
*Old Yeller*  
*Wind in the Willows*  
*King of the Wind*  
*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (great true story set in Africa!)*  
*Seaman: The Dog Who Explored the West with Lewis and Clark*  
*Conqueror and Hero: The Search for Alexander A Biography*  
*The Log of Christopher Columbus' First Voyage to America*  
*The Root Cellar*  
*At the Back of the North Wind*  
*The Flying Scotsman: A Biography about Eric Liddell*  
*Christy*  
*Molly Bannaky*  
*A Piece of the Mountain: The Biography of Blaise Pascal*  
*It's like That*  
*Island of the Blue Dolphin, The Hawk That Dare Not Hunt by Day*  
*My Friend, Flicka*  
*A Long Walk to Water*  
*The Story of the Champions of the Round Table*  
*The Yearling*  
*Esperanza Rising*  
*Black Beauty*  
*Kidnapped*  
*The Lord of the Rings, Farmer Giles of Ham (recommended!)*  
*Mary Poppins*  
*Banner in the Sky*  
*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Around the World in 80 Days*  
*The Black Stallion*