

7th Grade Summer Reading
Historical Fiction
Choose One

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy / Schmidt, Gary

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

Montmorency : Thief, Liar, Gentleman? / Updale, Eleanor

In Victorian London, after his life is saved by a young physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.

Code Talker / Joseph Bruchac

After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay and other Navajo men are recruited by the Marines to become Code Talkers, sending messages during World War II in their native tongue.

Catherine, called Birdy / by Karen Cushman

The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Mary, Bloody Mary / Carolyn Meyer.

Mary Tudor, who would reign briefly as Queen of England during the mid-sixteenth century, tells the story of her troubled childhood as daughter of King Henry VIII.

Fever 1793 / Anderson, Laurie Halse

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic

Year of the Hangman / Blackwood, Gary

In 1777, having been kidnapped and taken forcibly from England to the American colonies, fifteen-year-old Creighton becomes part of developments in the political unrest there that may spell defeat for the patriots and change the course of history.

The Game of Silence / Erdrich, Louise

In the captivating sequel to her National Book Award finalist "The Birchbark House," Erdrich continues the story of Omakayas, a young Ojibwe girl who lives with her family on an island in Lake Superior in 1850. As white men move closer to the island, Omakayas learns that all their lives may drastically change.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Choose One

Kit's Wilderness / David Almond

Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

Spindle's End / Robin McKinley.

The infant princess Briar Rose is cursed on her name day by Pernicia, an evil fairy, and then whisked away by a young fairy to be raised in a remote part of a magical country, unaware of her real identity and hidden from Pernicia's vengeful powers

Goose Girl / Hale, Shannon

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers. (YA)

The House of the Scorpion / Farmer, Nancy

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. (YA)

Stravaganza: City of Masks / Hoffman, Mary

While sick in bed with cancer, Lucien begins making journeys to a place in a parallel world that resembles Venice, Italy, and he becomes caught up in the political intrigues surrounding the Duchessa who rules the city.

Dust / Slade, Arthur

Eleven-year-old Robert is the only one who can help when a mysterious stranger arrives, performing tricks and promising to bring rain, at the same time children begin to disappear from a dust bowl farm town in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

The Amulet of Samarkand / Stroud, Jonathon

Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni, Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. (1st in a trilogy)

Eragon / Paolini, Christopher

In Agaesia, 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, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Free Literature Choice Suggestions
Choose One (doesn't have to be from this list)

Touching Spirit Bear / Ben Mikaelson.

After his anger erupts into violence, fifteen year-old Cole, in order to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the Native American Circle Justice, and he is sent to a remote Alaskan Island where an encounter with a huge Spirit Bear changes his life. (YA)

Freak the Mighty / Rodman Philbrick.

At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, who has a learning disability, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Miracle's Boys / Jacqueline Woodson

Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother

Gathering Blue / Lois Lowry.

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians. (Check out the last companion book: *The Messenger*- it ties up all loose ends from the *Giver* & *Gathering Blue*).

Stand Tall / Joan Bauer

Tree, a six-foot-three-inch twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school.

Every Day and All the Time / Sis Deans

Eleven-year-old Emily, still reeling from the car accident that took her older brother's life and badly injured her, uses psychotherapy and ballet dancing to cope with her parents' decision to sell their house--the only place she can still feel and talk to her brother.

Blackthorn Winter / Kathryn Reiss

An idyllic seaside artist colony reels in fear at the murder of one of its own in this mystery filled with scandal, suspense, and romance on the English coast. (YA)

Minerva Clark Gets a Clue / Karbo, Karen

Minerva is a typical 13-year-old girl until a fateful encounter with a lightning storm rewires her sense of self. With a brazen new attitude and a nose for trouble, she finds herself determined to track down a murderer. (YA)

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp / Yancey, Richard

Alfred is trying to survive high school when his guardian convinces him to steal the legendary sword of King Arthur. After Alfred unwittingly delivers the sword to a man with enormously evil intentions, he sets off on an unlikely quest to try to right his wrong. (YA)

Bucking the Sarge / Curtis, Christopher Paul

Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Airball: My Life in Briefs /Harkrader, L. D.

Uncoordinated Kansas seventh-grader Kirby Nickel braves his coach's ire and becomes captain of the basketball team in order to help him prove that NBA star Brett McGrew is the father he has never known.

The Young Man and the Sea / Philbrick, W. R.

After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a hugh bluefin tuna.

West with Hopeless / Lieberg, Carolyn S.

Bound for Reno and their divorced father for the summer, two half-sisters leave from Iowa in an old Ford Escort and learn a great deal about the people they encounter and even more about themselves.

Flush / Hiaasen, Carl

Noah's dad is sure that the owner of a casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor. Now Noah is determined to succeed where his dad failed and will sink the crooked casino and prove the boat owner is dumping illegally.

Some Young Adult (YA) selections may contain mature language and situations.

Don't forget about your teacher sponsored selection. If you forget your choice e-mail Mrs. Ayala at layala@stmga.org