

7th Social Studies Summer Reading

Seventh grade social studies is a year that we not only look at events in history, but we also spend a significant amount of time on current events. To help prepare students for situations going on in the world, students are required to read **one** of the following two books below.

For whichever book you choose, you **may also** use this as part of your Language Arts reading requirement. Feel free to choose both books, if you so desire!

Be prepared to discuss your choice on the first day of class. We will have activities surrounding these choices. Additionally, students will need to do the following:

1. Write a few sentences predicting what will happen after the ending.

And then either:

2. Find a news article that relates to the situation within the novel.

Or:

3. Have a conversation with an adult family member about the novel and provide a paragraph explaining how this conversation went.

Novel Choices and Descriptions (from Amazon):

1. *A Long Walk to Water*

The *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is a two hour walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

2. *The Breadwinner*

The first book in Deborah Ellis's riveting Breadwinner series is an award-winning novel about loyalty, survival, families, and friendship under extraordinary circumstances during the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan. Eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. Parvana's father — a history teacher until his school was bombed and his health destroyed — works from a blanket on the ground in the marketplace, reading letters for people who cannot read or write. One day, he is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education, and the family is left without someone who can earn money or even shop for food. As conditions for the family grow desperate, only one solution emerges. Forbidden to earn money as a girl, Parvana must transform herself into a boy, and become the breadwinner.

Summer Reading Requirements

Summer Reading Expectations:

As sixth and seventh grade LA Lit teams, we encourage students to read a lot and to read a variety of genres. In fact, we are so passionate about reading that we're challenging everyone to read a book a week this summer! As teachers, we are taking on this challenge, too, and we're excited to come back in the fall and share what we've read. Now, we are also realistic about this challenge and realize that many students have camps, family trips, etc. that might limit their time to read. So, for those who need more specific guidelines, here you go:

- 1.) Everyone must read at least four books. If the book is 350+ pages, it counts as two books.
- 2.) Everyone must read books from at least two different genres.
- 3.) Everyone must keep track of ALL of the book titles (including authors and page numbers) they read using the genre tracking chart. Students should also record any books they start and decide not to finish.

Frequently asked questions:

- 1.) Is there a minimum page requirement? No
- 2.) Do graphic novels count as books? Yes
- 3.) Do comic books count as books? Five comic books count as one book.
- 4.) Can I just read comic books? You could, but you wouldn't meet the genre requirement.
- 5.) Do magazines count as books? No
- 6.) Do joke books count? No, it must be a book with characters and a plot.
- 7.) Do I have to read every day? We don't have a way to enforce this, obviously, but we're going to say yes, even if it's just a page. Take advantage of car rides, down time, etc.
- 8.) Do audiobooks count? Yes, as long as you're following along in the book.
- 9.) Do books I'm reading for other classes count? Yes.
- 10.) Can I read more than four books? Yes, please! We are encouraging a book a week, but at a minimum, you are reading four books from two genres.

Most importantly, we want students to read books they love- books they find interesting, entertaining, and enjoyable. If a student isn't enjoying a book, we encourage him/her to put it down and choose another.

Genres Choices

Fiction: realistic fiction, science fiction, fantasy, romance, mystery, historical fiction, action/adventure, drama, horror, comic book, graphic novel

Non-fiction: biography, memoir, autobiography

Book Recommendations

If you are looking for some book recommendations, check out the links below. Please note that teachers have not necessarily read all of these books, and therefore, we can't speak to the content or appropriateness for all ages. Please read the included descriptions and level-recommendations for further guidance.

Books Suggestions for Sports Fanatics: <https://www.booklistonline.com/Top-10-Sports-Books-for-Youth/pid=7675889>

Book Suggestions for Sci Fi Enthusiasts: <http://bestsciencefictionbooks.com/best-science-fiction-books-for-young-adults.php>

Book Suggestions for the Fantasy Fans: http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/26979.Best_Fantasy_Books_for_Middle_Schoolers_

YA Book Suggestions: <http://www.readbrightly.com/ya-books-2017/>

Scholastic Book Suggestions: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/book-list/favorites-classics/top-picks-middle-schoolers>

Book Log

Directions: Write down each book you started and gave a good effort to and put down, and each book you finish. You will not write each time you read.

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