



Dear 7th Grade Students,

For your 2021-2022 summer reading assignment, you will read **two** books.

- **Book #1:** 7th-grade students will begin the 2021-2022 school year by reading a collection of poetry by a contemporary American poet. To build the skills needed to read poetry effectively, students will choose **one** of the following books. All of the books listed below have characters who develop and plots that progress; the only difference is that the novel is written in a poetic format called free verse<sup>1</sup>. The only assignment for this book is to read it from start to finish and *enjoy* the experience. When they return to school in the fall, students will participate in book discussion groups.

[Rebound](#) (Kwame Alexander, 2021) (432 pages)

[Muted](#) (Tami Charles) (400 pages, 2021) (**not available in paperback**)

[Three Things I Know Are True](#) (Betty Culley, 2021) (480 pages)

[home is not a country](#) (Safia Elhillo, 2021) (211 pages) (**not available in paperback**)

[Inside Out and Back Again](#) (Thanhha Lai, 2013) (288 pages)

[We Belong](#) (Cookie Hionia Everman, 2021) (208 pages) (**not available in paperback**)

[Shakespeare Bats Cleanup](#) (Ron Koertge, 2006) (116 pages)

[Red, White, and Whole](#) (Rajani LaRocca, 2021) (217 pages) (**not available in paperback**)

[The Red Pencil](#) (Andrea Davis Pinkney, 2015) (308 pages)

- **Book #2:** students will peruse the “Middle School Suggested Independent Reading Titles” attached to the next two pages, and they will choose **one** piece of **fiction** from any of the lists. Your choice may be from any listed author, and your choice may be of any length. If you use the list from the Chester County library, make sure you use the “Middle School (6th, 7th & 8th)” or “Teen” list. If you use the themed list, be sure your choice is age-appropriate in terms of subject. Once you finish reading the book, students will write a **one-page** reaction to the book. What did you like? What did you dislike? What was interesting about the plot? What would you have changed? These are just some sample questions; feel free to answer some of your own making. Students will write their responses in double-spaced 11-point Times New Roman font. This write-up is due on the first day of class.

**A Note for Parents:** *This assignment places value on choice: for the first assignment, students choose from a list of nine books, and the second assignment allows students to choose from hundreds of books. The suggested choices contain a wide range of themes, some of which include mature storylines and content. I would encourage students AND parents to make informed decisions about their choices for summer reading. Amazon provides synopses for books, and Common Sense Media gives overviews of books, noting potentially challenging material. If students and parents make choices together, each will be better informed about a book’s content and will be better prepared to read a wide range of material.*

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<sup>1</sup> nonmetrical, nonrhyming lines that closely follow the natural rhythms of speech (The Poetry Foundation)

## Middle School Suggested Independent Reading Titles



Click on the graphic to your left for graded and themed lists of books. After that, take a trip to your local Chester County library!



*The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA* (Brenda Woods)  
*Max and the Midnighters* (Lincoln Peirce)  
*The Friendship War* (Andrew Clements)  
*Fairy Mom and Me: Fairy in Waiting* (Sophie Kinsella)  
*Hilo: Then Everything Went Wrong* (Judd Winick)  
*Song for a Whale* (Lynne Kelly)  
*The Bridge Home* (Padma Venkatraman)  
*To Night Owl From Dogfish* (Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer)  
*Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat Series* (Johnny Marciano and Emily Chenoweth)  
*Far Away* (Lisa Graff)  
*Bernice Buttman, Model Citizen* (Niki Lenz)  
*Shouting at the Rain* (Lynda Mullaly Hunt)  
*Sea Sirens* (Amy Chu)  
*Each Tiny Spark* (Pablo Cartaya)  
*White Bird: A Wonder Story* (R.J. Palacio)



For any Disney fans out there, check out one of the books in the Ridley Pearson [Kingdom Keepers](#) series. They make for great reads set in the Disney parks!

# SLATE

## “The Essential Middle School Reading List”

*Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World* (Ashley Herring Blake)  
*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* (Dusti Bowling)  
*Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish* (Pablo Cartaya)  
*Summerlost* (Ally Condie)  
*The First Rule of Punk* (Celia C. Pérez)  
*Ghost* (Jason Reynolds)  
*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* (Jordan Sonnenblick)  
*Stargirl* (Jerry Spinelli)  
*Goodbye Stranger* (Rebecca Stead)  
*After Tupac and D Foster* (Jacqueline Woodson)



Two **amazing** Young Adult authors: Jennifer Chambliss Bertman and Stuart Gibbs

*Posted* (John David Anderson)  
*Out of My Mind* (Sharon M. Draper)  
*Watership Down* (Richard Adams)  
*Tasting the Sky* (Ibtisam Barakat)  
*The Book Thief* (Markus Zusak)  
*The Golden Compass* (Philip Pullman)  
*Fahrenheit 451* (Ray Bradbury)  
*The Adoration of Jenna Fox* (Mary E. Pearson)  
*Planet of the Apes* (Pierre Boulle)  
*Homer’s Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life . . .* (Gwen Cooper)