

REQUIRED READING

Entering seventh and eighth graders are to read one required title and one suggested. Entering seventh graders have four choices for required reading (see below); **all entering eighth graders will read *The Giver***, by Lois Lowry. Students may read the original novel or the graphic novel version adapted and illustrated by P. Craig Russell. Each required text will be used in the fall to begin the school year. Students may want to purchase their own copies to mark up.

Suggested titles for seventh and eighth graders are listed at the end of this document. The choice of this title is up to students and parents. Students may use the audiotape of a book to enhance their understanding. **Local author Mitali Perkins will be visiting Chenery next year to speak to seventh grade students about her work;** interested students may want to choose one of her books to read. Her latest, *You Bring the Distant Near*, is below.

SEVENTH GRADE CHOICES FOR REQUIRED READING

Rules* by Cynthia LordPublisher's Summary*

"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 potential 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?"

This might be the book for you if you like humor, family relationships, friendship issues, and characters you care about.

Legend* by Marie LuPublisher's Summary*

"What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, fifteen-year-old June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem.

"From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death. But in a shocking turn of events, the two uncover the truth of what has really brought them together, and the sinister lengths their country will go to keep its secrets."

This might be the book for you if you like *The Hunger Games* and other action-packed, sci-fi novels.

Running Dream* by Wendelin Van DraanenPublisher's Summary*

"Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope with crutches and a first cyborg-like prosthetic, Jessica feels oddly both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say, act like she's not there. Which she could handle better if she weren't now keenly aware that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her

through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself-she wants to take Rosa with her.”

This might be the book for you if you like characters who overcome challenges and sports-related books.

***Crash* by Jerry Spinelli**

Publisher's Summary

“Everybody knows Crash Coogan, seventh-grade football sensation. He’s been mowing down everything in his path since the time he could walk – and Penn Webb, his dweeby, vegetable-eating neighbor, is his favorite target. After all, Webb’s not just a nerd, he’s a cheerleader too. Crash and his best buddy, Mike, can’t think of anything more hilarious than making Webb’s life miserable. But Crash starts to realize that Webb has something he may never gain, no matter how many touchdowns he scores. And when Mike takes a prank too far, maybe even for Crash, the football star has to choose which side he’s really on.”

This might be the book for you if you like humor, sports-related books, and friendship issues.

SUGGESTED READING FOR BOTH GRADES

The following list includes fiction and non-fiction (*) which may appeal to a wide variety of readers. This list is meant to encourage students to read during summer vacation. Children should consult parents, friends, and librarians about these and other books when looking for suggestions. This list is distributed to students entering grades seven and eight in the fall of 2019. This list is also posted on the district’s website and the Belmont Public Library’s teen page. <http://www.belmont.lib.ma.us/teen-center-home>.

Abdel-Fattah, Randa	<i>Does My Head Look Big in This?</i>
Adams, Douglas	<i>Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy</i>
Alcott, Louisa May	<i>Little Women</i>
Angleberger, Tom	<i>The Strange Case of Origami Yoda</i>
Balliett, Blue	<i>Chasing Vermeer; Hold Fast</i>
Bloor, Edward	<i>Tangerine</i>
Bradley, James with Ron Powers	<i>Flags of Our Fathers: The Story of Iwo Jima*</i>
Braff, Joshua	<i>The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green</i>
Callahan, Steven	<i>Adrift *</i>
Card, Orson Scott	<i>Ender’s Game</i>
Colfer, Eoin	<i>The Reluctant Assassin</i> (series)
Cooper, Susan	<i>Dark Is Rising</i> (series)
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Creech, Sharon	<i>Absolutely Normal Chaos, Ruby Holler</i>
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<i>Bucking the Sarge</i>
Dickens, Charles	<i>Oliver Twist; David Copperfield</i> (adapted versions available)
Dowd, Siobhan	<i>London Eye Mystery</i>
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>
DuPrau, Jeanne	<i>City of Ember</i>
Ende, Michael	<i>The Neverending Story</i>
Farmer, Nancy	<i>The Lord of Opium</i> (sequel to <i>House of the Scorpion</i>), <i>The Sea of Trolls</i> trilogy
Ferris, Jean	<i>Love Among the Walnuts</i>
Gantos, Jack	<i>Hole in My Life*</i> , Norvelt series
Haddon, Mark	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>
Hesse, Karen	<i>Out of the Dust</i>
Hickam, Homer	<i>Rocket Boys: A Memoir*</i>
Hobbs, Will	<i>Bearstone; Downriver; Far North</i>
Holt, Kimberly Willis	<i>When Zachary Beaver Came to Town</i>
Houston, Julian	<i>New Boy</i>

Hughes, Dean	<i>Soldier Boys</i>
Johnson, Angela	<i>Toning the Sweep</i>
Jones, Diana Wynne	<i>Howl's Moving Castle, Dark Lord of Derkholm, Chrestomanci series</i>
Katz, Jon	<i>Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho*</i>
Key, Watt	<i>Alabama Moon</i>
Kherdian, David	<i>The Road Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl*</i>
Konigsburg, E.L.	<i>Silent to the Bone</i>
Knowles, Jo	<i>See You at Harry's</i>
Krakauer, Jon	<i>Into Thin Air*</i>
Lee, Stacey	<i>Outrun the Moon</i>
LeGuin, Ursula	<i>The Wizard of Earthsea (series)</i>
Lobel, Anita	<i>No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War*</i>
London, Jack	<i>Call of the Wild; White Fang (adapted versions available)</i>
Maetani, Valynne E.	<i>Ink and Ashes</i>
Magoon, Kekla	<i>The Rock and the River; How It Went Down</i>
Mah, Adeline Yen	<i>Chinese Cinderella: True Story of an Unwanted Daughter*</i>
McCall, Guadalupe Garcia	<i>Summer of the Mariposas</i>
McCormick, Patricia	<i>Never Fall Down: A Boy Soldier's Story of Survival</i>
Meyer, Marissa	<i>Cinder</i>
Mikaelsen, Ben	<i>Tree Girl</i>
Montgomery, Lucy Maude	<i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
Morris, Willie	<i>My Dog Skip</i>
Myers, Walter Dean	<i>The Greatest: Muhammed Ali*; Bad Boy*</i>
Naidoo, Beverley	<i>The Other Side of Truth</i>
Nye, Naomi Shihab	<i>Tree is Older than You Are; Habibi</i>
Opdyke, Irene Gut	<i>In My Hands: Memoirs of a Holocaust Rescuer *</i>
O'Reilly, Bill	<i>Hitler's Last Days*</i>
Paolini, Christopher	<i>Eragon; Eldest (Inheritance series)</i>
Parks, Rosa	<i>Rosa Parks: My Story *</i>
Paterson, Katherine	<i>The Same Stuff</i>
Perkins, Lynne Rae	<i>Criss Cross</i>
Perkins, Mitali	<i>You Bring the Distant Near</i>
Pierce, Tamora	<i>Protector of the Small (series)</i>
Philbrick, Rodman	<i>Freak the Mighty; The Last Book of the Universe</i>
Pullman, Philip	<i>His Dark Materials</i> trilogy; <i>Sally Lockhart</i> trilogy
Reeve, Philip	<i>Mortal Engines (series)</i>
Rinaldi, Ann	<i>The Fifth of March; Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons</i>
Salisbury, Graham	<i>Prisoners of the Empire series</i>
Sanderson, Brandon	<i>Steelheart</i>
Senzai, N.H.	<i>Shooting Kabul</i>
Sheinkin, Steve	<i>Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*</i>
Smith, Betty	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>
Smith, Roland	<i>Edge (sequel to Peak), Beneath</i>
Sonnenblick, Jordan	<i>Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie; Zen and the Art of Faking It</i>
Staples, Suzanne Fisher	<i>Under the Persimmon Tree</i>
St. Exupery, Antoine de	<i>The Little Prince</i>
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Hobbit</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>The Prince and the Pauper</i>
Voigt, Cynthia	<i>Izzy Willy-Nilly</i>
Volponi, Paul	<i>The Final Four</i>
Westerfeld, Scott	<i>Uglies (series), Zeroes</i>
Williams, Michael	<i>Now Is the Time for Running</i>
Yang, Gene Luen	<i>The Shadow Hero</i>
Yolen, Jane	<i>Briar Rose; Sword of the Rightful King</i>
Zusak, Markus	<i>I am the Messenger; The Book Thief</i>

This list was compiled by English teachers and reviewed by librarians at Chenery Middle School and Belmont Public Library. These and other books are available from the school library, the public library, and bookstores.