

7th Grade/8th Grade Cambridge Summer Reading List 2015

Assignment:

Choose at least two of the following books you have not read and read it before the first day of school. You will neatly write or type an essay on each of the books you read to give to your teacher on the first day of school. Be sure to include the following information in your essay:

- Book Title and Author
 - Setting
 - Protagonists and Antagonists
 - Minor Characters
 - Major Events (3) that move the story to conclusion
 - Final Conflict and Resolution
 - Theme(s)
 - Your Personal Rating 1-5 (5 being the best, 1 being the lowest)
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- ***Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard** - Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver- blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own.
 - ***The Selection* by Kierra Cass** - For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth. To be swept up in a world of glittering gowns and priceless jewels. To live in the palace and compete for the heart of the gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being selected is a nightmare.
 - ***Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis** - This begins the adventures of the remarkable Dr. Ransom who is abducted by a megalomaniacal physicist and his accomplice and taken via spaceship to the red planet of Malacandra. The two men are in need of a human sacrifice, and Dr. Ransom would seem to fit the bill. Once on the planet, however, Ransom escapes his captors, risking his life and his chances of returning to Earth, becoming a stranger in a land that is enchanting in its difference from Earth and instructive in its similarity.
 - ***I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai** - *I am Malala* is the true story of a fourteen-year old girl's campaign for women's right to education. In 2011 Malala was shot by the Taliban in a bus on her way home from school. Two men boarded the school bus—"Who is Malala" they asked and fired gun shots; two lodged in Malala's head. The series of events that followed, described in Malala's voice, are remarkable—the politics, the media frenzy and her recovery.
 - ***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio** - Ten-year-old August, was born with a face that horrifies most who look upon it. Over the years, he had countless surgeries, so he was home-schooled. Now, he's about to enter the fifth grade in a regular school. This story is told from his perspective as well as from his sister's, her boyfriend's and friends' perspectives.
 - ***Smiles to Go* by Jerry Spinelli** - When high school freshman Will Tuppence was five or six years old, he learned from a science-savvy neighbor that protons are "unsmashable" and last forever. Since that revelation, Will has been obsessed with astrology and believes that, because he is made up of zillions of protons, he, too, is unsmashable. But on Saturday, September 26th at 10:15, Will's world changes.
 - ***King of the Wind* by Marguerite Henry** - Agba was a wretched mute slave boy in the horse stables owned by the Sultan of Morocco. His responsibilities were to feed and care of ten of the Sultan's prized Arabians. This day, one mare in particular needed extra attention as she was preparing to foal. He gave the future stallion the name of Sham. A great friendship grew as Sham was beautiful stallion and swifter than most. Agba spent extra care on this particular horse and it showed. One day, the horse boy was summoned to the Sultan's palace along with five other boys. This was devastating because everyone knew that no summoned slave boy had ever returned.
 - ***Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys** - In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina is preparing for art school, first dates, and all that summer has to offer. But one night, the Soviet secret police barge violently into her home, deporting her along with her mother and younger brother. They are being sent to Siberia. Lina's father has been separated from the family and sentenced to death in a prison camp. All is lost. It is a long and harrowing journey, and it is only their incredible strength, love, and hope that pull Lina and her family through each day. But will love be enough to keep them alive?
 - ***The Night Gardener* by Jonathan Auxier** - Fourteen-year-old Molly and her younger brother, Kip, orphans fleeing the Irish famine, seek work in England. The destitute siblings become servants at the Windsor estate, at the center of which is a decrepit house entwined with a huge and sinister tree. Although warned that this place contains something ominous that changes people, they are unprepared for the evil they encounter.
 - ***Almost Home* by Joan Bauer** - When twelve-year-old Sugar Mae Cole's grandfather dies and her no-good gambling father leaves again, Sugar and her mom Reba lose their house in Missouri. Homeless, they head for Chicago, where Reba

thinks she can find work and make a fresh start. Unfortunately, Reba suffers a breakdown, and Sugar and her beloved little rescue dog Shush suddenly find themselves thrust into the foster care system. Reba has always taught Sugar to be gracious though, and Sugar is doing her best to find the good in her situation, even when she is frightened and confused. With the help of her dog, a giving foster family, a former teacher who urges her to continue to write the poetry she so loves, and Sugar's own grace and fortitude, she eventually learns that while she can't control what happens to her, she can control how she responds to her circumstances.

- ***Kinda Like Brothers* by Coe Booth** - Jarrett doesn't trust Kevon. But he's got to share a room with him anyway. It was one thing when Jarrett's mom took care of foster babies who needed help. But this time it's different. This time the baby who needs help has an older brother -- a kid Jarrett's age named Kevon.
- ***Blind Beauty* by K.M. Peyton** - Tessa is a wild one. She seems to have a heart of stone. She regularly rises to the challenge of getting herself thrown out of school and enjoys baiting her malicious step-father. The only kind of human interaction she can handle with confidence is confrontation. Then she meets Buffoon. And Tessa at last has something in her life to love. But it is a long road for her before she can achieve all her ambitions for Buffoon and learn how to love people with the same kind of commitment that she shows to the horse.
- ***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson** - Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical memoir chronicles the incidents and emotions she experienced as an African-American girl growing up in the 1960s and 1970s. Precise language magnifies moments and connects them to the larger historical narrative. Her elegant and evocative standalone poems weave a story about her development from a struggling reader and dreamer into a confident young woman and writer.
- ***The List* by Siobhan Vivian** - An intense look at the rules of high school attraction -- and the price that's paid for them. It happens every year before homecoming -- the list is posted all over school. Two girls are picked from each grade. One is named the prettiest, one the ugliest. The girls who aren't picked are quickly forgotten. The girls who are become the center of attention, and each reacts differently to the experience.
- ***Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer** - Everything was normal until the moon was knocked out of orbit. Asteroids hit the moon all the time, but the one scheduled to hit at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18 is one of the largest ones yet. This asteroid however creates worldwide disasters. Miranda tries to live life as normally as possible. She goes to the pond to ice skate for as long as she can breathe. She visits her friends, who are not the same people they were before the disaster. The question is, how long can Miranda and her family survive with minimal water, a dwindling food supply, no heat or electricity, and subzero temperatures?
- ***Bleachers* by John Grisham** - Neely and his former teammates return to Messina, their hometown, to sit vigil while their former coach, Eddie Rake lies dying. Using the technique of flashback, the author shows us the impact Eddie had on all his players and the town where they lived. However, it is especially his impact on Neely that is most emphasized. Neely had left the town 15 years before when he had an altercation with the coach during halftime of the '87 championship game. His subsequent career in football was ruined by a knee injury, his wife left him, and combined with his love-hate relationship with Rake, he has drifted through life a bitter man. Now with Rake's death comes his chance to resolve all these conflicts.
- ***Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson** - "The best time to talk to ghosts is just before the sun comes up," Those are the words which start the book *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson. The book is about a thirteen year old slave, Isabel, during the American Revolution. As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight... for freedom.
- ***This is What Happy Looks Like* by Jennifer E. Smith** - If fate sent you an email, would you answer? When teenage movie star Graham Larkin accidentally sends small town girl Ellie O'Neill an email about his pet pig, the two seventeen-year-olds strike up a witty and unforgettable correspondence, discussing everything under the sun, except for their names or backgrounds. Then Graham finds out that Ellie's Maine hometown is the perfect location for his latest film, and he decides to take their relationship from online to in-person. But can a star as famous as Graham really start a relationship with an ordinary girl like Ellie? And why does Ellie want to avoid the media's spotlight at all costs?
- ***Crossover* by Kwame Alexander** - Twelve-year-old narrator Josh Bell uses the rhythms of a poetry jam to emulate the "moving & grooving/popping and rocking" of life on the basketball court with his twin brother, J.B. This powerful novel in verse paints an authentic portrait of a closely-knit family on the brink of crisis. Swish! This book is nothing but net!