

Future Seventh Grade Student:

Over the summer, we would encourage you to read as many books as you can! Reading books that interest you will improve your comprehension skills and keep you “in shape” for next fall’s English class.

Books are available at the Chelmsford Public Library. Feel free to ask your teachers, librarians, or family members for suggestions on a book you would enjoy!

The following books are suggestions for you, but you can read any books you would like to. **Summer reading is not required, and no assignment will be collected or graded.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Abbey Dick, English Department Coordinator: [dicka@chelmsford.k12.ma.us](mailto:dicka@chelmsford.k12.ma.us).

**A Break with Charity by Ann Rinaldi**

While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692.

**Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko Reading**

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards’ families were housed there, and he has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his sister, who is autistic.

**Far North by Will Hobbs Reading**

After the destruction of their float plane, sixteen-year-old Gabe and his Dene friend Raymond struggle to survive a winter in the wilderness of the Northwest Territories of Canada.

**Just Ella by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

In this continuation of the Cinderella story, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming’s proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape.

**Light in the Forest by Conrad Richter**

After being raised as an Indian for eleven years following his capture at the age of four, John Butler is forcibly returned to his white parents but continues to long for the freedom of Indian life.

**Nothing but the Truth by Avi**

A ninth-grade student’s suspension for singing “The Star-Spangled Banner” during homeroom becomes a national news story and leads to him and his teacher both leaving the school.

**Redwall by Brian Jacques**

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, is determined to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall’s inhabitants destroy the enemy.

**Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel**

When a newborn bat named Shade, but sometimes called “Runt,” becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys.

**Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls**

In rural Oklahoma at the turn of the century, fourteen-year-old Jay Berry Lee discovers a tree full of monkeys, a discovery that leads to a summer that teaches him about life.

**Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipovic**

This book is the diary of a young teenage girl who is living in war-torn Sarajevo. The diary begins when there was still peace in Zlata's homeland and chronicles her family's struggle to survive. Zlata, who has been considered a modern day Anne Frank, made some difficult decisions in order to stay alive and tells the story of war from a child's perspective.

**Refugee by Alan Gratz**

*Refugee* is a historical fiction that tells the story of three different 13-year-old refugees and their families. These three refugees each live in a different time period, but Alan Gratz weaves together the experiences of these into one action-packed, well written story.

**Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, who struggles to make new friends and is comforted by counting by 7s in times of stress. When something tragic happens, Willow must learn to overcome grief and find joy in life.

**Unteachables by Gordon Korman**

When the 'unteachables,' a class of middle schoolers deemed as trouble-makers and unteachable, are paired with the burnt-out teacher, Mr. Kermit, the story that follows is both amusing and heartwarming. This unlikely pairing makes for a classroom full of laughs, adventures and surprises.

Other places to find good books include <https://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/kids/> and <http://www.ala.org> (The American Library Association).

Have a wonderful summer vacation!