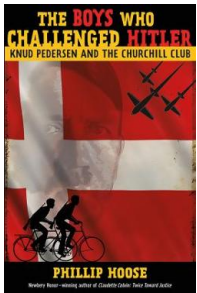


ORRJHS 2020 Summer Reading Grade 7

Putting high-interest books into the hands of our students and developing a school-wide community of readers are the most important goals of our summer reading program. Incoming 7th-grade students will choose one book from the list below to read over the summer and then meet in small groups in September to discuss their books.

Once students have chosen a book to read, they should sign up by using the online form found on our library website: orjhslibrary.weebly.com. The books can all be borrowed from local public libraries, from our school's Sora ebook collection, or purchased at area bookstores or online.

Grade 7 Summer Reading Choices



The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose (narrative nonfiction; World War II)

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. The young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage and infuriated the Germans, who became determined to track down the boys and arrest them.



Dead Voices by Katherine Arden (horror; thriller; haunted places)

Best friends Ollie, Coco, and Brian are determined to make the best of being snowed in together with their parents at Mount Hemlock Ski Resort, but odd things keep happening. Coco is convinced she has seen a ghost, and Ollie is having nightmares about frostbitten girls pleading for help. Then Mr. Voland, a mysterious ghost hunter, arrives in the midst of the storm to investigate the hauntings at Hemlock Lodge. Ollie, Coco, and Brian want to trust him, but Ollie's watch, which once saved them from the smiling man, has a new cautionary message: BEWARE.

With Mr. Voland's help, Ollie, Coco, and Brian reach out to the dead voices at Mount Hemlock. Maybe the ghosts need their help – or maybe not all ghosts can or should be trusted.



Exo by Fonda Lee (science fiction; action & adventure)

It's been a century of peace since Earth became a colony of an alien race with far reaches into the galaxy. Some die-hard extremists still oppose their rule on Earth, but Donovan Reyes isn't one of them. His dad holds the prestigious position of Prime Liaison in the collaborationist government, and Donovan's high social standing along with his exocel (a remarkable alien technology fused to his body) guarantee him a bright future in the security forces. That is, until a routine patrol goes awry and Donovan is abducted by the human revolutionary group Sapience. When Sapience realizes whose son Donovan is, they think they've found the ultimate bargaining chip. But the Prime Liaison doesn't negotiate with terrorists, not even for his own son. Left in the hands of terrorists who have more uses for him dead than alive, the fate of Earth rests on Donovan's survival. Because if Sapience kills him, it could spark another intergalactic war. And Earth didn't win the last one . . .



Family Game Night and Other Catastrophes by Mary E. Lambert (family; secrets; obsessive compulsive disorder)

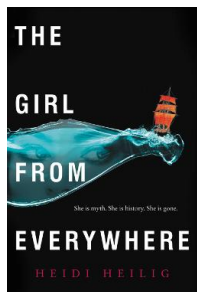
Annabelle has a secret . . . a secret so big she won't allow friends within five miles of her home. Her mom collects things. Their house is overflowing with stuff. It gives Annabelle's sister nightmares, her brother spends as much time as he can at friends' houses, and her dad buries himself in his work. So when a stack of newspapers falls on Annabelle's sister, it sparks a catastrophic fight between their parents – one that might tear them all apart – and Annabelle starts to think that things at home finally need to change. Is it possible for her to clean up the family's mess? Or are they really, truly broken?



Ghost (Track, Book 1) by Jason Reynolds (track & field; friendship; coaches)

Ghost has a crazy natural talent, but no formal training. If he can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons – it all starting with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then,

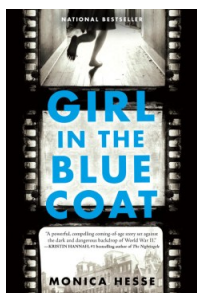
Ghost has been the one causing problems – and running away from them – until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who blew his own shot at success by using drugs, and who is determined to keep other kids from blowing their shots at life.



The Girl from Everywhere by Heidi Heilig (fantasy; time travel)

Nix's life began in Honolulu in 1868. Since then she has traveled to mythic Scandinavia, a land from the tales of One Thousand and One Nights, modern-day New York City, and many more places both real and imagined.

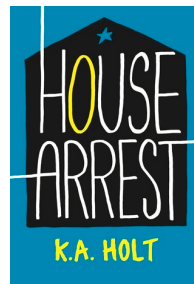
As long as he has a map, Nix's father can sail his ship, The Temptation, to any place, any time. But now he's uncovered the one map he's always sought – 1868 Honolulu, before Nix's mother died in childbirth. Nix's life – her entire existence – is at stake. No one knows what will happen if her father changes the past. It could erase Nix's future, her dreams, her adventures . . . her connection with the charming Persian thief, Kash, who's been part of their crew for two years. If Nix helps her father reunite with the love of his life, it will cost her her own.



Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse (mystery; Holocaust)

Amsterdam, 1943. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who

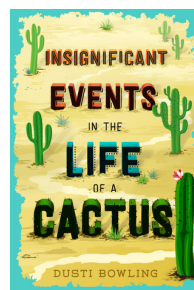
was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen wants meat or kerosene, Hanneke is shocked by the older woman's frantic plea to find a person – a Jewish teenager Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such dangerous work, but is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action.



House Arrest by K.A. Holt (novels in verse; realistic fiction; family)

Timothy is on probation. It's a strange word – something that happens to other kids, to delinquents, not to kids like him. And yet, he is under house arrest for the next year. He must check in weekly with a probation

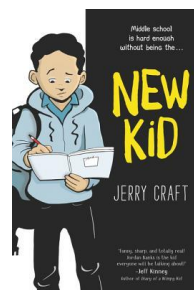
officer and a therapist, and keep a journal for an entire year. And mostly, he has to stay out of trouble. But when he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be. By turns touching and funny, and always original, *House Arrest* is a novel in verse about one boy's path to redemption as he navigates life with a sick brother, a grieving mother, and one tough probation officer.



Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling (mystery; adoption; disabilities & special needs)

Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was

born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.



New Kid by Jerry Craft (graphic novels; middle school; prejudice & racism)

Seventh-grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its

academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds – and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his friends and staying true to himself?