



# Grade 7 SUMMER READING CHOICES

CHOOSE ONE BOOK FROM THIS LIST TO READ THIS SUMMER.  
ARRIVE AT SCHOOL IN THE FALL READY TO DISCUSS YOUR BOOK!  
YOU CAN FIND THESE BOOKS ON SORAAPP.COM AND AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!

**HISTORICAL FICTION/BOOKS IN VERSE**

**Lifeboat 12**  
by Susan Hood

With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He is one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. Life aboard the luxury ship is grand—nine-course meals, new friends, and a life far from war. And after five days at sea, the ship's officers announce that they're out of danger. But later that same night, an explosion hurls Ken from his bunk. They've been hit and The Benares is sinking fast. Terrified, Ken scrambles aboard Lifeboat 12 with five other boys. Will they survive?

**REALISTIC FICTION/BOOKS IN VERSE**

**The Canyon's Edge**  
by Dusti Bowling

Nora and her father are exploring a canyon deep in the Arizona desert, hoping it will help them find peace after a traumatic event. But when they reach the bottom of the canyon, a flash flood sweeps away Nora's father and all of their supplies. Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, venomous scorpions, and, worst of all, the Beast who has terrorized her dreams for the past year. If Nora is going to save herself and her father, she must conquer her fears, defeat the Beast, and find the courage to live her new life.

**REALISTIC FICTION**

**Small as an Elephant**  
by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Ever since Jack can remember, his mom has been unpredictable, sometimes loving and fun, other times caught in a whirlwind of energy and "spinning" wildly until it's over. But now she is gone, leaving him all alone on a campsite in Maine. Can he find his way back to Boston before the authorities realize what happened? Jack soon undertakes a journey that tests his wits and his loyalties.

**ADVENTURE**

**Spineless**  
by Samantha San Miguel

Wild boar, alligators, hammerhead sharks . . . Can twelve-year-old Algie Emsworth survive the swamps of South Florida? With the help of Frankie and Lulu, intrepid heiresses to the Hotel Paraíso, Algie embarks on the adventure of a lifetime as he escapes certain death, discovers a brand-new species, and goes head-to-head with diabolical thieves, all while a deadly and mysterious red tide ravages the beaches and a possible curse threatens to close down the hotel for good. Can Algie, Frankie, and Lulu save themselves, solve the mystery of the hotel's curse, and save their never-before-seen species?

**DYSTOPIAN**

**The City of Ember**  
by Jeanne DuPrau

The underground city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to dim. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. Now, she and her friend Doon must race to figure out the clues to keep the lights on. If they succeed, they will have to convince everyone to follow them into danger. But if they fail? The lights will burn out and the darkness will close in forever.

**GRAPHIC NOVEL (MEMOIR)**

**When Stars Are Scattered**  
by Victoria Jamieson with Omar Mohamed

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day. Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting.