

Welcome 7th Grade Readers!

Anytime is a great time for reading! Research says that students who read daily are more apt to be successful in school and score better on reading achievement tests. Reading regularly hones important skills that support learning and critical thinking. It fosters confidence and independence and ultimately, leads to success. And, reading is a lot of fun!

There's a wealth of literature – fiction, nonfiction, all genres, and subjects available for middle schoolers and teens. The books below are just a few of them. Visit the public library often. And don't forget all the wonderful books in CTA's "little library". You're always welcome. Browse the shelves. Read an old favorite or something new. Relax with a good book!

It has been my great pleasure to read with you during your Lower School years.

All the best in 7th grade. Happy Reading!

Cheryl Miller, CTA Library 2021

Fiction

Al Capone Does My Homework by Jennifer Choldenko 2013 Alcatraz Island is a strange place to live even if your dad works there. Third book in the trilogy about Moose Flanagan. Others are *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk 2018 Twelve year old Crow has spent her life on a tiny, isolated island. She was found abandoned and adrift in an old boat when just newborn. Cared for by the island's two other inhabitants she begins to wonder where she came from.

The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman 2021 In 1986 the Russian nuclear power plant in Chernobyl exploded. Many got sick and died from radiation. Others fled to safety, including Jewish Valentina and Ukrainian Oksana. Although not friends they must travel together to Valentina's grandmother in Leningrad. Through their stories we see the power of friendship over hatred, intolerance, and oppression.

Call of the Wild by Jack London Classic story, first published in 1903, about Buck, a mongrel dog, shipped to Alaska from California to become a sled dog during the Klondike Gold Rush.

More Classics

Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Adventures of Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

From the Ohio author of popular series, The Shadow Children

Children of Exile by Margaret Petersen Haddix 2017-19 Twelve years ago, Earth's children were taken from their homes to give them better lives away from the war-ravaged planet. Now, returned to their families, their homes are nothing like they could have imagined.

Sequels: *Children of Refuge* & *Children of Jubilee*.

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Greystone Secrets Book 1: The Strangers by Margaret Petersen Haddix 2019

The Greystone kids thought they knew. They've been a happy family, just the three of them and their mom. But everything changes when reports of three kidnapped children reach them.

They're shocked by how much like them these complete strangers are - same names, ages, birthdays. Who are these strangers? Sequels: *The Deceivers* 2020, *The Messengers* 2021

*New from the author of 2020 Newbery winner, **The New Kid** –*

Class Act by Jerry Craft 2020 Eighth graders Drew, Jordan, and Liam are good friends, but their lives aren't exactly the same. Jordan is no longer the new kid. Liam's family is white and rich. Drew is black, comes from a working-class home and worries he won't succeed. Can their friendship withstand their differences? *Graphic Novels*

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander 2015 Newbery Medal Told in rhythmic verse. Thanks to their dad, twins Josh and Jordan Bell are junior high basketball stars. They're also best friends until life interferes. Family bonds help them through growing up and family tragedy.

The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder 1968 Newbery Honor Two girls, fascinated by ancient Egypt embark upon an "Egypt Game", a fantasy that leads to strange happenings.

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 2016 Heartwarming story of Ally's struggle to hide her dyslexia until her quirky friends and a special teacher help her see just how smart she really is. Two others by the author: ***Shouting in the Rain*** and ***One for the Murphys***.

Dead End in Norvelt 2012 Newbery Medal by Jack Gantos Jack's summer plans are ruined when he's "grounded for life" and has to spend the summer with his elderly neighbor helping her write obituaries filled with stories about founders of his town. Sequel: ***From Norvelt to Nowhere***

Echo Mountain by Lauren Wolk 2021 It's 1934, and 12-year-old Ellie and her family lose their income and home and must move to a mountain cabin. Ellie learns to be an outdoors woman and a healer. But can she help her dad who had a bad accident and is in a coma.

The Giver by Lois Lowry 1994 Newbery Medal winner Jonas lives a utopian life in a world of conformity. Now at 12 yrs., he's given his life's work as Receiver of Memory. It brings him awesome responsibility and knowledge that reveals the flaws of his society.

The Giver Quartet includes ***Gathering Blue***, ***Messenger***, and ***Son***

The Girl with the Glass Bird by Esmé Kerr 2015 Fancy Knight's Haddon boarding school is for rich kids, not Edie. But she's sent there with a secret task and mystery to solve! Sequel ***Mischief at Midnight***, too. Two great stories of friendship and mystery!

Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill 2017 Newbery Medal Each year the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the forest witch. But Xan is a kind witch who rescues the children and finds them families. Realizing one baby's magic, Xan raises baby Luna herself. But there's concern when Luna's powers get stronger as she turns 13.

Ground Zero by Alan Gratz 2021 On Sept. 11, 2001, Brandon is visiting his dad at work on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. That same day, during a battle in war-torn Afghanistan, Reshmina finds a wounded American soldier. Should she help him and put her family at risk? Among this popular author's books are ***Allies*** (2019), ***Refugee*** (2017), ***Code of Honor*** (2015).

Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis 2018 On his own, with a debt to pay, 12-year-old Charlie makes a deal to repay it by tracking down some thieves. But when Charlie learns who he's really hunting he must figure out the right thing to do.

Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead 2012 7th grader Georges moves to a Brooklyn apartment building, meets Safer, a twelve-year-old spy, and becomes his first spy recruit.

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott Classic story, first published in the mid-19th century, about the March sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy – who learn the hard lessons of poverty and of growing up in New England during the Civil War.

Many Points of Me by Caroline Gertler 2021 Georgia's late father was an artist. He created asterisms, patterns of stars. One was of her best friend, Theo. He's sure the next one would have been of Georgia. When she finds a sketch, she wonders if he's right. Can she prove it?

Nat Enough by Maria Scrivan 2020 Have you ever felt “not enough”? Natalie has. And on the first day of middle school, she's not even *cool enough* for her best friend! Will Natalie realize that who she is, not what she isn't, is most important! Graphic Novel

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry 1990 Newbery Medal On Sept. 29, 1943, word spread in Nazi-held Denmark that Jews would be sent to the death camps. This is a story of a young girl whose family hides and evacuates her best friend's family. Although fiction, the story reflects how the Danish people and government helped 7,000 Jews escape to Sweden.

One Came Home by Amy Timberlake 2014 Newbery Honor It's 1871. Meet Georgia. She's outspoken but when she misspeaks, her older sister runs away. Everyone assumes the worst, but Georgia won't believe the *facts* and goes off to find her.

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia 2011 Newbery Honor It's 1968 and the Gaithers sisters go to California to see the mother who left them years ago. The visit, and their mother, are not what they expected. Other books in the trilogy: ***P.S. Be Eleven*** and ***Gone Crazy in Alabama***.

Rescue by Jennifer Nielsen 2021 It's almost 2 years since Megan's father left their home in France to fight for the Allies. She heard he was being held prisoner by the Nazis. Then she gets a chance to save him. But first she must face great danger. More great historical fiction from this author: ***Words on Fire (2019)***, ***Resistance (2018)***, and ***A Night Divided (2015)***.

Starfish by Lisa Fipps 2021 Middle schooler Ellie is bullied for her weight. Whether it comes from classmates, siblings, or even her mother there's comments about her size. With support from her best friend, her dad and her therapist, can Ellie gain confidence, love herself and stand up to bullies?

Travel Team by Mike Lupica Twelve-year-old Danny may be the shortest kid on the team, but he plays with heart and talent! When he doesn't make the 7th grade travel team, he suspects he's not being told the real reason.

The Tower of Nero (Trials of Apollo Bk 5) 2020 Newest in the series for fans of author Rick Riordan Will the Greek god Apollo, come down to earth in the mortal form of a teenager named Lester Papadopoulos, and finally regain his place on Mount Olympus?

From Sharon Creech

Walk Two Moons 1995 Newbery Medal As 13 yr. old Salamanca travels from Ohio to Idaho to see her mom she tells her grandparents stories of Phoebe, whose mother also vanished.

The Wanderer 2001 Newbery Honor Sophie hears the sea calling and joins her three uncles and two cousins aboard a sailboat traveling from Connecticut to England.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberley Brubaker Bradley 2016 Newbery Honor Disabled Ada must stay in the apartment she shares with her little brother and cruel mother. Then the children run away to join kids leaving London and going to the country for safety away from German bombings. Sequel: ***The War I Finally Won***

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller 2021 Newbery Honor When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother a magical tiger, like those in her halmoni's Korean folktales, arrives. What does it want?

Wonder by R.J. Palacio 2012 August Pullman was born with a facial deformity. He has always been homeschooled but now he's starting at Beecher Prep and wants to be treated like any other kid. *If you haven't read **Wonder**, and its companion, **Auggie and Me** yet, now's the time!*

White Bird: A Wonder Story by R. J. Palacio 2019 Sydney Taylor Book Award In ***Auggie & Me***, readers meet Julian's grandmother, Grandmère. This graphic novel is Grandmère's story of hiding as a young Jewish girl during the Holocaust It's a story of courage and kindness.

Nonfiction

Alexander Hamilton: The Making of America Book by Teri Kanefield 2011 Hamilton's vision of America was one of opportunity for the poor and newcomers but not everyone agreed.

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat 2021 Newbery Honor, Robert Siebert Honor, YALSA Award of Excellence The story of the amazing 2018 rescue and seemingly impossible survival of a Thai soccer team trapped deep underground in a cave.

Almost Astronauts: Thirteen Women Who Dared to Dream by Tonya Lee Stone 2006 In the 1960s, nearly 20 years before women were admitted into NASA's space program, "the Mercury 13", all pilots – and women – fought ridicule and the prejudices of the times.

Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin 2013 Newbery Honor, Sibert Medal and YALSA Award in Nonfiction This is the story of the creation, arms race and subsequent espionage involving the atom bomb.

Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust by Doreen Rappaport 2012 Twenty-one researched accounts of the resistance of tens of thousands of Jews across eleven Nazi-occupied countries during World War II.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Reader's Edition) by William Kamkwamba & Brian Mealer 2015 When drought struck William's village in Malawi, famine followed, leaving his family with no food to eat or sell. William studied science books in his village library and came up with an idea that would change his family's life forever. He built a windmill from scrap metal and old bicycle parts that harnessed the wind creating electricity for his home so his family could pump the water they needed to farm. He helped his village and beyond and was rewarded with an American college education.

Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club by Phillip Hoose 2015 Ashamed of Denmark's failure to resist the Nazi regime, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen, his brother and a handful of schoolmates, takes action against the Nazis.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson 2015 Newbery Honor Written in verse, this is the noted children's author's story. From her birth in Columbus to life in South Carolina and Brooklyn, NY, we learn what life for a black girl growing up in the 1960s was like.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson 2009 This is a biographical account of John Wilkes Booth's plot to kill the president and his 12 days on the run after the assassination.

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles 2014 YALSA Honor
As Americans fought Hitler's armies overseas, segregation existed back home. This is the story of America's first African American Paratroopers.

DK Eyewitness Books various authors More than 100 Eyewitness books support non-fiction interests like Rocket Science, Ancient Egypt, chemistry, Titanic, American Revolution and more.

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Right Movement
by Ann Bausum 2005 The story of two young men, one white, one black, from very different backgrounds who share a passion for justice in the 1960s and become freedom riders.

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai 2014 She was only ten when the Taliban took control of her village in Pakistan. They said girls couldn't go to school. But Malala was taught to stand up for herself, so she did and almost died. She is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Legends: The Best Players, Games and Teams in Basketball by Howard Bryant 2017 From Magic Johnson to Michael Jordan to LeBron James to Steph Curry, the author highlights the best players and teams in basketball. Great for sports fans.

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin 2015 A true-crime thriller that takes place in 1876 involving Secret Service agents in pursuit of counterfeiters who plan to hold Abraham Lincoln's body ransom to get their leader released from jail.

Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi by Neal Bascomb 2013 Sydney Taylor & YALSA Awards
This is the story of how, 16 years after World War II, a team of undercover Israeli agents captured the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann, in Argentina and brought him to trial in Israel for crimes during the Holocaust.

No Summit Out of Sight by Jordan Romero 2015 Jordan climbed Mt. Everest at age 13. He became the youngest person to climb the tallest summits on 7 continents.

Notorious RBG: Young Reader's Edition: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Camon 2017 A biography of the iconic Supreme Court Justice.

"The President Has Been Shot!" The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James Swanson 2013 The story of the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of the nation's 35th president.

Titanic: Voices from the Disaster by Deborah Hopkinson 2013 Sibert Honor, YALSA Finalist
Read about the April 15, 1912 sinking of the Titanic in the words of survivors and witnesses

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson 2008 In the early 1900s baseball players in the Negro League sacrificed much and showed great courage in the name of the game they loved.

We Had to Be Brave: Escaping the Nazis on Kindertransport by Deborah Hopkinson 2020
As Nazi Germany rose to power danger increased for Jews. Many fled the country. Others stayed and thought it would end soon. By 1938 things were very desperate and the Kindertransport was organized to bring children to safety in England. Personal stories told by survivors.

We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman 2016 Sibert Honor The story of Austrian brother and sister, Hans and Sophie Scholl. Hitler Youth members as kids, they began to doubt Nazi beliefs, and as teens, joined the White Rose resistance in defiance of the Nazis.

When Stars are Scattered by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson 2021 Schneider Family Honor & YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Somali refugees, Omar and his brother, Hassan, who is nonverbal, live together in a Kenyan refugee camp. There's never enough food and life is hard. The opportunity to go to school may give them a better future but will Omar have to leave his brother to learn. *Graphic novel*

Lots of great nonfiction is available for children and young adults. The reader's interests are a good guide in making selections.