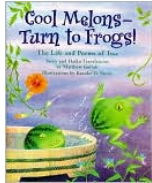


# Summer Reading List : Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Assignment:** Choose at least 3 books from the list to read during the summer break. Then, take and pass (with an 80% or better) the AR quiz for each book. You must take and pass the quizzes between June 25<sup>th</sup> and September 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you do not pass a quiz you must choose and read a new book from the list below and take its AR test in order to have 3 passed quizzes by the deadline.

## Nonfiction:

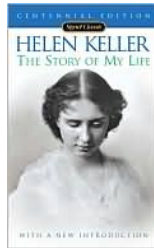


### Cool Melons — Turn to Frogs!: The Life and Poems of Issa (AR 4.4)

by Matthew Gollub

Born in 1763 on a farm in central Japan, Issa began writing haiku as a young child. In this book, Matthew Gollub has brought Issa's poetry to life with the watercolor's of the illustrator Kazuko Stone.

The Story  
by Helen Keller  
Before she  
alone and  
(in several  
Radcliffe



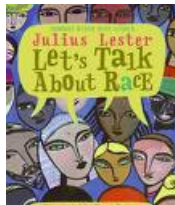
### of My Life (AR 6.8)

was two years old, a scarlet fever destroyed Helen Keller's sight and hearing. At seven, withdrawn, she was rescued by Anne Sullivan, her teacher and friend. She learned to read different languages) and speak so well that she graduated with honors in 1904 from college, where she authored the *Story of My Life*.

### Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod (AR 6.0)

by Gary Paulsen

Fueled by a passion for running dogs, Gary Paulsen entered the Iditarod—the 1150-mile winter sled-dog race—in dangerous ignorance and with a fierce determination. *Winterdance* is his account of this seventeen-day battle against Nature's worst elements and his own weakness. Paulsen and his team of dogs endured snowstorms, frostbite, dogfights, moose attacks, sleeplessness, and hallucinations in the relentless push to go on.



### Let's Talk About Race (3.0)

by Julius Lester

Powerful, unconventional paintings add to the impact of this discussion of race. Lester writes in a deeply personal way about how we are much more than our skin color: "Yes, I am black but I am also a man...I have a deep voice and a loud laugh. (I love to laugh. Do you?)" He also discusses "stories" that are not always true.



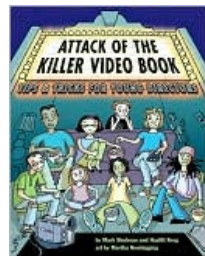
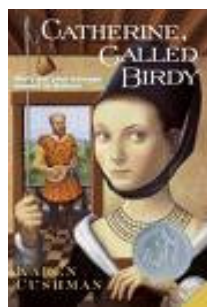
### The Exploding Toilet: Modern Urban Legends (AR 6.5)

by David Holt

These expanded versions of urban myths and legends are striking nuggets of jolting, sometimes shocking episodes for an audience that is difficult to shock. Even for those who've heard it all before, these pieces are good for laughs, gasps, wincing, or sighs of relief or disbelief. In one selection, a woman licks an envelope only to find it filled with roach eggs that eventually hatch on her tongue; in another, thanks to a gas station attendant, a woman avoids getting into her car where an attacker awaits.

## Young

This book is an technique, scriptwriting there are tips on



### Attack of the Killer Video Book: Tips and Tricks for Directors (AR 5.3)

by Mark Skulman

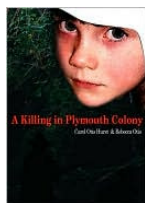
Informative, well illustrated guide to making videos. It includes camera and storyboarding, tips on special effects, and hints for the big premiere. Everything from planning to technique, using digital cameras to special effects, "the burden of leadership" and "the big show."

## Fiction:

### Catherine, Called Birdy (AR 6.4)

by Karen Cusick

THIS UNUSUAL BOOK PROVIDES AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT THE LIFE OF BIRDY, 14, THE DAUGHTER OF A MINOR ENGLISH NOBLEMAN. THE YEAR IS 1290 AND BIRDY TELLS ABOUT THE PAGES OF HER PERSONAL DIARY. THE BOOK IS RICH WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOOD, DRESS, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, MANNERS, HEALTH, MEDICAL PRACTICES, AND SANITARY HABITS (OR LACK THEREOF) OF THE PEOPLE OF HER DAY. FROM THE NUMBER OF FLEAS SHE KILLS IN AN EVENING TO HER HERBAL MEDICINES, BIRDY REVEALS FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT HER TIME PERIOD.



### A Killing in Plymouth Colony (AR 4.3)

BY CAROL OVIS HURST

THERE HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN A MURDER IN PLYMOUTH COLONY. JOHN NEWCOMEN HAD BEEN SHOT AND KILLED BY SOMEONE. BUT BY WHOM?



### Summer of My German Soldier (AR 5.2)

BY BETTE GREENE

MINUTES BEFORE THE TRAIN PULLED INTO THE STATION IN JENKINSVILLE, ARKANSAS, PATTY BERGEN KNEW SOMETHING EXCITING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR HAVE ARRIVED TO MAKE THEIR NEW HOME IN THE PRISON CAMP IN JENKINSVILLE. TO THE REST OF HER TOWN, THESE PRISONERS ARE ONLY NAZIS. BUT TO PATTY, A YOUNG JEWISH GIRL WITH A TURBULENT HOME LIFE, ONE BOY IN PARTICULAR BECOMES AN UNLIKELY FRIEND.



### Wrinker (AR 4.5)

BY JERRY SPINELLI

PALMER LARUE IS RUNNING OUT OF BIRTHDAYS. FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN REMEMBER, HE'S DREADED THE DAY HE TURNS TEN--THE DAY HE'LL TAKE HIS PLACE BESIDE ALL THE OTHER TEN-YEAR-OLD BOYS IN TOWN, THE DAY HE'LL BE A WRINGER. BUT PALMER DOESN'T WANT TO BE A WRINGER. IN PALMER'S TOWN BEING A WRINGER IS AN HONOR, A TRADITION PASSED DOWN FROM FATHER TO SON. PALMER CAN'T STOP HIMSELF FROM BEING A WRINGER JUST LIKE HE CAN'T STOP HIMSELF FROM GROWING ONE YEAR OLDER, JUST LIKE HE CAN'T STAND UP TO A WHOLE TOWN--RIGHT?

### Homecoming

BY CYNTHIA VOIGT

"IT'S STILL TRUE." TRUE THAT THEIR CONNECTICUT. IT'S BRIDGEPORT, WHICH



(AR 4.4)

THAT'S THE FIRST THING JAMES BILLERMAN SAYS TO HIS SISTER DICEY EVERY MORNING. IT'S STILL TRUE THAT THEIR MOTHER HAS ABANDONED THE FOUR BILLERMAN CHILDREN SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF CONNECTICUT. BUT STILL TRUE THEY HAVE TO FIND THEIR WAY, SOMEHOW, TO GREAT-AUNT CILLA'S HOUSE IN BRIDGEPORT, WHICH MAY BE THEIR ONLY HOPE OF STAYING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY.



### Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind (AR 5.9)

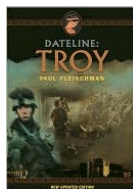
BY SUZZANE FISHER STAPLES

LIFE IS BOTH SWEET AND CRUEL TO STRONG-WILLED YOUNG SHABANU, WHOSE HOME IS THE WINDSWEEPED CHOLISTAN DESERT OF PAKISTAN. THE SECOND DAUGHTER IN A FAMILY WITH NO SONS, SHE'S BEEN ALLOWED FREEDOMS FORBIDDEN TO MOST MUSLIM GIRLS. BUT WHEN A TRAGIC ENCOUNTER WITH A WEALTHY AND POWERFUL LANDOWNER RUINS THE MARRIAGE PLANS OF HER OLDER SISTER, SHABANU IS CALLED UPON TO SACRIFICE EVERYTHING SHE'S DREAMED OF.

### Dateline:

BY PAUL

A RETELLING OF MODERN



### Troy (AR 5.6)

FLEISCHMAN

OF THE STORY OF THE TROJAN WAR ILLUSTRATED WITH COLLAGES FEATURING NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF EVENTS FROM WORLD WAR I THROUGH THE PERSIAN GULF WAR.



### The Mysterious Benedict Society (AR 5.6)

BY TRENTON LEE STEWART

DOZENS OF CHILDREN RESPOND TO THE ODD AD IN THE NEWSPAPER AND ARE THEN PUT THROUGH A SERIES OF MIND-BENDING TESTS, WHICH READERS TAKE ALONG WITH THEM. ONLY FOUR CHILDREN--TWO BOYS AND TWO GIRLS--SUCCEED. THEIR CHALLENGE: TO GO ON A SECRET MISSION THAT ONLY THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND INVENTIVE CHILDREN COULD COMPLETE. TO ACCOMPLISH IT THEY WILL HAVE TO GO UNDERCOVER AT THE LEARNING INSTITUTE FOR THE VERY ENLIGHTENED, WHERE THE ONLY RULE IS THAT THERE ARE NO RULES.

### Halloween Party (Fear Street #8) (AR 4.7)

BY R.L. STINE

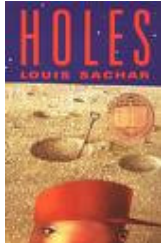
The invitation arrived in a black-bordered envelope and was delivered by the beautiful and mysterious transfer student. The inside showed a coffin with the inscription "reserved for You" — perfect for an all-night Halloween party in an old house on Fear Street. The party was well under way when the lights went out. But when the lights came back on, there was a boy on the floor with a knife in his back. Just a Halloween prank? Maybe. Maybe not.



### Lunch Money (AR 5.2)

by Andrew Clements

Greg Kenton has always had a natural talent for making money. Then, just before sixth grade, Greg makes a discovery: Almost every kid at school has an extra quarter or two to spend almost every day. Multiply a few quarters by a few hundred kids, and for Greg, school suddenly looks like a giant piggy bank. All he needs is the right hammer to crack it open.



### Holes (AR 4.6)

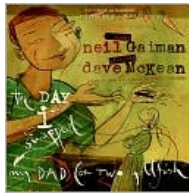
by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish boys' juvenile detention center in the Texas desert. As punishment, the boys here must each dig a hole every day, five feet deep and five feet across. Ultimately, Stanley "digs up the truth" -- and through his experience, finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

### Day I

by Neil Gaiman

What if you  
your father?  
father for two  
him back.



### Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish (AR 2.8)

wanted your best friend's two goldfish so much that you'd swap anything for them, even  
What if your mother came home and found out what you'd done? After trading his  
goldfish, a boy and his little sister go on a rollicking adventure around town to get



### The Wolves in the Wall (AR 3.9)

by Neil Gaiman

Lucy hears wolves rustling, bustling, crinkling, and crackling in the walls of the old house where her family lives, but no one believes her. Her mother says it's mice, her brother says bats, and her father says what everyone seems to say, "If the wolves come out of the walls, it's all over."