

Summer 2013 Recommended Reading List  
Rising Seventh Grade  
2013-2014

Nonfiction Books

**Berger, Lee R. and Marc Aronson *The Skull in the Rock: How a Scientist, a Boy, and Google Earth Opened a New Window on Human Origins***

Tells the story of how Professor Lee Berger and his nine-year-old son used Google Earth to find a new way to study the history of human evolution.

**DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami *A Black Hole Is Not a Hole***

A black hole isn't really a hole, is it? Find out what black holes are, what causes them, and how scientists first discovered them.

**Fleming, Candace *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart***

Fleming reveals the adventurous life of the most famous female aviator, from her childhood to the dramatic search for her plane as it unfolds through photographs, maps, handwritten documents and engaging text.

**Hughes, Susan *Off to Class: Incredible and Unusual Schools Around the World***

Introduces readers to children from around the world who attend unique schools in strange locations.

**Johnson, Rebecca L. *Journey Into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures***

Examines some of the unique life forms that have been found by scientists exploring the deep oceans, and looks at the innovative technologies used to make the discoveries.

**Lewis, J. Patrick *Edgar Allan Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems***

Poet J. Patrick Lewis reimagines Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," Langston Hughes's "April Rain Song," and other classic works, and offers parodies and puzzles that encourage critical thinking and math skills.

**Markle, Sandra *The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs: a Scientific Mystery*** Follows a team of scientists as they try to save Panamanian golden frogs.

**Maynard, Christopher *I Wonder Why Planes Have Wings and Other Questions About Transportation***

Answers questions about transportation and vehicles, including "Do airships run on air?" and "Why don't ships sink?"

**Murphy, Jim and Alison Blank *Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure***

Discusses the history of tuberculosis and the attempts to find a cure.

**Pasternak, Carol *How to Raise Monarch Butterflies: a Step-by-Step Guide for Kids***

A step-by-step guide to raising monarch butterflies, covering anatomy, finding caterpillars, and releasing your butterfly.

**Rusch, Elizabeth *The Mighty Mars Rovers: the Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity***

The story of the two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity that were sent to explore Mars.

**Webb, Sophie *Far from Shore: Chronicles of an Open Ocean Voyage***

Sophie works as a field biologist and naturalist specializing in birds aboard a ship bound for deep ocean waters to study, paint, and record sightings of marine life.

## Fiction Books

### **Avi *Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution***

In 1776, after witnessing the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, newly occupied by the British army, young Sophia Calderwood resolves to do all she can to help the American cause, including becoming a spy.

### **Burt, Marissa *Storybound***

Shy, twelve-year-old Una Fairchild is suddenly transported by a mysterious book into the Land of Story, where characters from books hope to be cast into a tale of their own.

### **Dowell, Frances O'Roark *The Second Life of Abigail Walker***

Bullied by two mean girls in her sixth-grade class, a lonely, plump girl gains self-confidence and makes new friends after a mysterious fox gently bites her.

### **Engle, Margarita *The Wild Book***

In early twentieth-century Cuba, bandits terrorize the countryside as a young farm girl struggles with dyslexia.

### **Horvath, Polly *One Year in Coal Harbor***

Twelve-year-old Primrose tries to be a matchmaker for her Uncle Jack, befriends Ked, a new foster child, tries to decide if she is willing to go to jail for her convictions, and together with Ked, publishes a cook book to raise money for the Fisherman's Aid.

### **Jinks, Catherine *The Paradise Trap***

Marcus is spending a week at the beach with his mother in a tiny old travel trailer, but boredom turns to terror when a new friend discovers a cellar that has magical doors through which people keep disappearing.

### **Kelly, Lynne *Chained***

To work off a family debt, ten-year-old Hastin leaves his desert village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper, but many challenges await him.

### **Palacio, R. J. *Wonder***

Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

### **Rivers, Karen *The Encyclopedia of Me***

Tink Aaron-Martin writes an encyclopedia of her life and tells the story of the summer leading into her eighth-grade year.

### **Schmidt, Gary D. *What Came from the Stars***

In a desperate attempt for survival, a peaceful civilization on a faraway planet besieged by a dark lord sends its most precious gift across the cosmos.

### **Stead, Rebecca *Liar & Spy***

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

### **Turnage, Sheila *Three Times Lucky***

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.