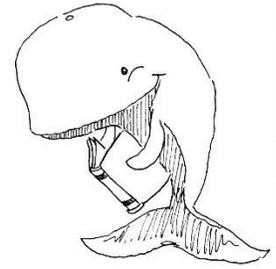


# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading



Dear Future Seventh Graders (and Parents),

All of the students at Sutton Middle School will be reading two (2) novels over summer vacation. All incoming seventh-graders must read 2 novels **from the list of books found on the following pages** and complete the attached worksheets, one set for each novel. The sets are NOT the same. The 2<sup>nd</sup> worksheet is different, so you will be completing different activities with each novel. Students' comprehension will be assessed during the first few weeks of school.

Happy Reading!

The Sutton Middle School English Department ☺

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If there are any questions about the Sutton Middle School summer reading program, please contact the Sutton Middle School at (508) 581-1630.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List

**Choose two (2) books from the list below to be your Summer Reading novels.**

The following synopses are from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Scat** by Carl Hiaasen

Fiction - Mystery/Science

When their unpopular biology teacher goes missing in a suspicious fire during a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Nick and Marta don't buy the headmaster's excuse for her absence and decide to do some investigating of their own. Eco-avengers; an endangered, hunted panther; illegal pipelines in the Everglades; and an underachieving student with the nickname "Smoke" all play a part in this gripping novel. Hiaasen does a good job balancing teens' dangerous detective work, help from some unlikely sources, and the ethics of environmental awareness. The emotion and personal changes that Nick goes through due to his father's injury in Iraq are on their own a worthy study of the struggles that military families are facing today.

**So Be It.** by Sarah Weeks

Realistic Fiction

Heidi and her mother have lived in an apartment that adjoins with their neighbor, Bernadette, since the 12-year-old was probably no more than a week old. Bernadette accepted and loved them from the moment they arrived at her door but could never ask questions since Heidi's mentally challenged mother simply "didn't have the words to answer them." Bernadette's agoraphobia further isolates the child. Heidi struggles with knowing nothing about her father or her family history, and never having a real last name. Then she finds an old camera, which prompts her quest to learn the identity of the people in the photographs it holds and to discover her past. While traveling by bus from Nevada to Liberty, NY, the girl relies on her luck, instinct, and the people she meets on the way to learn the truth about her mother and her own background.

**Wolf Brother** by Michelle Paver

Fiction - Fantasy

According to legend, only twelve-year-old Torak and his wolf-cub companion can defeat the evil stalking the land. Their journey together takes them through deep forests, across giant glaciers, and into dangers they never imagined. Torak and Wolf are terrified of their mission. But if they do not battle to save the world, who will?

**Ranger's Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan** by John A. Flanagan

Science Fiction - Fantasy

He had always wanted to be a warrior. The Rangers, with their dark cloaks and shadowy ways, made him nervous. The villagers believe the Rangers practice magic that makes them invisible to ordinary people. And now fifteen year-old Will, always small for his age, has been chosen as a Ranger's apprentice. What he doesn't realize yet is that the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom. Highly trained in the skills of battle and surveillance, they fight the battles before the battles reach the people. And as Will is about to learn, there is a large battle brewing. The exiled Morgarath, Lord of the Mountains of Rain and Night, is gathering his forces for an attack on the kingdom. This time, he will not be denied. This series boasts nine other novels. Be sure to continue reading if you enjoy *The Ruins of Gorlan*.

**Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights** by Steve Sheinkin

Nonfiction / History

On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution. This is a fascinating story of the prejudice that faced black men and women in America's armed forces during World War II, and a nuanced look at those who gave their lives in service of a country where they lacked the most basic rights.

**The Unwanteds** by Lisa McMann

Dystopian Fiction / Fantasy

When Alex finds out he is Unwanted, he expects to die. That is the way of the people of Quill. Each year, all the thirteen-year-olds are labeled as Wanted, Necessary, or Unwanted. Wanted get more schooling and train to join the Quillitary. Necessaries keep the farms running. Unwanteds are set for elimination. It's hard for Alex to leave behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted, but he makes peace with his fate—until he discovers that instead of a "death farm," what awaits him is a magical place called Artimé. There, Alex and his fellow Unwanteds are encouraged to cultivate their creative abilities and use them magically. Everything Alex has ever known changes before his eyes, and it's a wondrous transformation. But it's a rare, unique occurrence for twins to be divided between Wanted and Unwanted, and as Alex and Aaron's bond stretches across their separation, a threat arises for the survival of Artimé that will pit brother against brother in an ultimate magical battle.

**The Goddess of Yesterday** by Caroline Cooney

Fiction - Mythology

Alexandra is taken from her birth island at age six by King Nicander to be a companion to his crippled daughter, Princess Callisto. Six years later, her new island is sacked by pirates, and she is the sole survivor. Alone with only her Medusa figurine, she reinvents herself as Princess Callisto when Menelaus, great king of Sparta, lands with his men. He takes her back to Sparta with him where Helen, his beautiful wife, does not believe that the red-headed child is Princess Callisto. Although fearful of the half-mortal, half-goddess Helen, Anaxandra is able to stay out of harm's way – until the Trojan princes Paris and Aeneas arrive. Paris and Helen's fascination with each other soon turns to passion and plunges Sparta and Troy into war. Can Anaxandra find the courage to reinvent herself once again, appease the gods, and save herself?

**Atlantia** by Ally Condie

Dystopian Fiction/Fantasy

Rio Conwy has lived her whole life in Atlantia, a city built underwater to preserve the human race after the atmosphere became filled with toxic pollution. Rio had always planned to go Above and join the workers who support and feed the Atlantians, but she promised her twin sister, Bay, she would stay after their mother died. When Bay betrays their agreement and abandons her, Rio plots, plans, and trains to make her own escape. As a further complication, Rio is secretly a siren, with a voice that compels obedience; if she's found out, she'll be forced to serve the Atlantian Council and never find out why Bay left.



***Snow like Ashes*** by Sara Raasch

Fiction - Fantasy

A striking fantasy tale of dark magic, dangerous politics, and discovering your true self. Sixteen years ago the Kingdom of Winter was conquered and its citizens enslaved, leaving them without magic or a monarch. Now the Winterians' only hope for freedom is the eight survivors who managed to escape, and who have been waiting for the opportunity to steal back Winter's magic and rebuild the kingdom ever since. Orphaned as an infant during Winter's defeat, Meira has lived her whole life as a refugee. Training to be a warrior—and desperately in love with her best friend, Winter's future king—she would do anything to help Winter rise to power again. So when scouts discover the location of the ancient locket that can restore Winter's magic, Meira decides to go after it herself—only to find herself thrust into a world of evil magic and dangerous politics—and ultimately comes to realize that her destiny is not, never has been, her own.

***Parvana's Journey*** by Deborah Ellis

Realistic Fiction

Sequel to *The Breadwinner*, *Parvana's Journey* by Deborah Ellis follows Parvana, the eponymous 12-year-old girl who, disguised as a boy, sets off from Kabul in search of her missing mother and siblings in Taliban-era Afghanistan. When war breaks out, she bands together with other displaced children. Royalties from the sale of the book go to Women for Women, a relief organization benefiting women in Afghanistan.