

## Seventh Grade Summer Reading

Students entering seventh grade will be required to read **at least one of the listed books** in preparation for a [Socratic seminar](#) facilitated by their teacher during the first week of the school year. Along with issuing an indication of completion on the first trimester progress report, teachers may also choose to consider Socratic seminar participation in the first trimester grade. Students are encouraged to consult with teachers and parents/guardians when selecting a title. The Socratic Seminar preparation sheet is attached and should be completed in preparation for this activity.

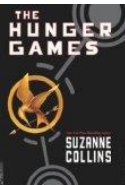
**For summer reading to count towards 20+ book club, students must complete the required MPS book report form.**

### -FICTION-



#### [Nightfall by Jake Halpern and Peter Kujawinski](#)

On Marin's island, sunrise...comes every twenty-eight *years*...The weather is turning cold and the shadows are growing long. Because sunset triggers the tide to roll out hundreds of miles, the islanders are frantically preparing to sail south, where they will wait out the long Night. Marin and her twin brother, Kana, help their anxious parents ready the house for departure...The rituals are puzzling—bizarre, even—but none of the adults in town will discuss why it has to be done this way. Just as the ships are about to sail, a teenage boy goes missing—the twins...are the only ones who know the truth about where Line's gone. (goodreads.com)



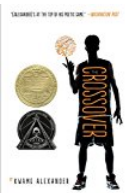
#### [The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins](#)

The nation of Panem, formed from a post-apocalyptic North America, is a country that consists of a wealthy Capitol region surrounded by 12 poorer districts. Early in its history, a rebellion led by a 13th district against the Capitol resulted in its destruction and the creation of an annual televised event known as The Hunger Games...each district must yield one boy and one girl between the ages of 12-18 through a lottery system to participate in the games...When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as District 12's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. (goodreads.com)



#### [Ghost, by Jason Reynolds](#)

Running. That's all that Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But never for a track team. Nope, his game has always been ball. But when Ghost impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race -- and wins -- the Olympic medalist track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him? (goodreads.com)



#### [The Crossover, by Kwame Alexander](#) (written in verse)

**Newbury Medal 2015**

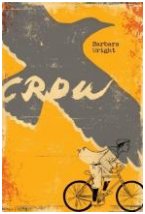
"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. (goodreads.com)



#### [The Girl Who Drank the Moon, by Kelly Barnhill](#)

**Newbury Medal 2017**

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest... [to keep] her from terrorizing their town. But the witch, Xan, is kind and... shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster...and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families...nourishing the babies with starlight. Xan accidentally fill[s] the ordinary child with extraordinary magic...When Luna approaches her 13th birthday, her magic begins to emerge -- but Xan is far away...it is up to Luna to protect those who have protected her. (goodreads.com)



### [Crow, by Barbara Wright](#)

The summer of 1898 is filled with ups and downs for 11-year-old Moses. He's growing apart from his best friend, his superstitious Boo-Nanny butts heads constantly with his pragmatic, educated father, and his mother is reeling from the discovery of a family secret. Yet there are good times, too. He's teaching his grandmother how to read. For the first time she's sharing stories about her life as a slave. And his father and his friends are finally getting the respect and positions of power they've earned in the Wilmington, North Carolina, community. But not everyone is happy with the political changes at play and some will do anything, including a violent plot against the government, to maintain the status quo. One generation away from slavery, a thriving African American community—enfranchised and emancipated—suddenly and violently loses its freedom in turn of the century North Carolina when a group of local politicians stages the only successful coup d'état in US history. (goodreads.com)

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## -NONFICTION-



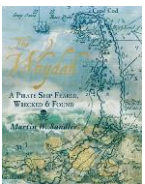
### [Trapped, by Marc Aronson](#)

In early August 2010... a mine collapsed in Copiapó, Chile, and 33 miners were trapped 2,000 feet below the surface. For sixty-nine days they lived on meager resources and increasingly poor air quality. When they were finally rescued, the world watched with rapt attention and rejoiced in the amazing spirit and determination of the miners. What could have been a terrible tragedy became an amazing story of survival...By tracing the psychological, physical, and environmental factors surrounding the rescue, *Trapped* highlights the amazing technology and helping hands that made it all possible. From the Argentinean soccer players who hoped to raise morale, to NASA volunteering their expertise to come up with a plan... (goodreads.com)



### [Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers, by Deborah Heiligman](#)

The deep and enduring friendship between Vincent and Theo Van Gogh shaped both brothers' lives. Confidant, champion, sympathizer, friend, Theo supported Vincent as he struggled to find his path in life. They shared everything, swapping stories of lovers and friends, successes and disappointments, dreams and ambitions. Meticulously researched, drawing on the 658 letters Vincent wrote to Theo during his lifetime, Deborah Heiligman weaves a tale of two lives intertwined and the love of the Van Gogh brothers. (goodreads.com)



### [The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found, by Martin W. Sandler](#)

The exciting true story of the captancy, wreck, and discovery of the *Whydah* the only pirate ship ever found and the incredible mysteries it revealed. The 1650s to the 1730s marked the golden age of piracy, when fearsome pirates like Blackbeard ruled the waves, seeking not only treasure but also large and fast ships to carry it. The *Whydah* was just such a ship, built to ply the Triangular Trade route, which it did until one of the greediest pirates of all, Black Sam Bellamy, commandeered it. Filling the ship to capacity with treasure, Bellamy hoped to retire with his bounty but in 1717 the ship sank in a storm off Cape Cod. For more than 200 years, the wreck of the *Whydah* (and the riches that went down with it) eluded treasure seekers, until the ship was finally found in 1984 by marine archaeologists. The artifacts brought up from the ocean floor are priceless, both in value and in the picture they reveal of life in that much-mythologized era, changing much of what we know about pirates. (goodreads.com)



### [The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives, by Dashka Slater](#)

One teenager in a skirt. One teenager with a lighter. One moment that changes both of their lives forever. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight. (goodreads.com)

**Socratic Seminar Preparation Required Reading:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** When preparing for a Socratic Seminar, write questions using these sentence frames to stimulate your thinking about the book you read. Choose and complete 5 of the following:

**What puzzles me is...**

**I'd like to talk with people about...**

**I'm confused about...**

**Don't you think this is similar to...**

**Do you agree that the big ideas seem to be...?**

**I have questions about...**

**Another point of view is...**

**I think it means...**

**Do you think...**

**What does it mean when the author says...?**

**Do you agree that...**