

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

## **School Year 2024-2025**

Hello VCS 7<sup>th</sup> graders! I hope you're having a good summer so far! You do have a summer reading assignment because independent reading is one of the best things you can do for your brain. So many studies show that reading just 20 minutes a day will increase your vocabulary, elevate your reading comprehension, and will actually help you understand your other school subjects better. For your assignment, please choose two books from the following book list to read. There is a variety of books and they are not meant to be too deep and heavy- it is summer after all! Please choose books from different genres. For example, choose one realistic fiction and one autobiography, or one historical fiction and one science fiction. When you have completed your reading, please complete one of the attached "Book Notes" for each book. You can also write this assignment on your own notebook paper. Please have both pages of "Book Notes" ready to turn in the first week of school. If you enroll after July 31, you will be required to read only one book and complete one "Book Notes" page. We will use these notes to write a literary analysis at the beginning of the year. You will not need to write an analysis before returning to school. Just make sure you have read your books and then bring the completed "Book Notes" pages by Friday, August 16. I will remind you on our first day of school, which is Wednesday, August 14!! If you have questions, you may email me at [cmabe@victory.com](mailto:cmabe@victory.com). Praying you all have a restful, relaxing summer and I can't wait to see you in class!

Your 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher,

*Mrs. Mabe*

# **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Menu**

## **Summer Reading Assignment 24/25**

### *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*

By Kwambe Mbalia

**Genre: Science Fiction, Book Level 4.8**

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom and steals Eddie's journal. Tristan chases after it — is that a doll? — and a tug-of-war ensues between them underneath a Bottle Tree. In a last attempt to wrestle the journal out of the creature's hands, Tristan punches the tree, accidentally ripping open a chasm into the MidPass, a volatile place with a burning sea, haunted bone ships, and iron monsters that are hunting the inhabitants of this world. Tristan finds himself in the middle of a battle that has left black American gods John Henry and Brer Rabbit exhausted. In order to get back home, Tristan and these new allies will need to entice the god Anansi, the Weaver, to come out of hiding and seal the hole in the sky. But bartering with the trickster Anansi always comes at a price. Can Tristan save this world before he loses more of the things he loves?

### *A Rover's Story*

By Jasmine Warga

**Genre: Science Fiction, Book Level 4.1**

Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name.

Res was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop human-like feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming....

Human emotions or not, launch day comes, and Res blasts off to Mars, accompanied by a friendly drone helicopter named Fly. But Res quickly discovers that Mars is a dangerous place filled with dust storms and giant cliffs. As he navigates Mars's difficult landscape, Res is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration.

As millions of people back on Earth follow his progress, will Res have the determination, courage—and resilience—to succeed... and survive?

### *The Green Ember*

By S. D. Smith

**Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Book Level 5.2**

Heather and Picket are extraordinary rabbits with ordinary lives until calamitous events overtake them, spilling them into a cauldron of misadventures. They discover that their own story is bound up in the tumult threatening to overwhelm the wider world. Kings fall and kingdoms totter. Tyrants ascend and terrors threaten. Betrayal beckons, and loyalty is a broken road with peril around every bend. Where will Heather and Picket land? How will they make their stand?

## *Raymie Nightingale*

By Kate DiCamillo

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 4.2**

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

## *Mountain Born*

By Elizabeth Yates

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 5.6**

Wolves, weather, a black lamb, a trusty dog—all are a part of Peter's life on a mountain farm. His best friend is Benji, a wise old shepherd, and Benj teaches Peter to care for the sprightly lamb that becomes his special pet, his cosset. As Bidy grows into her place as leader of the flock, Peter grows too, learning the skills and joys of the shepherd's life.

## *New Kid*

By Tim Green

**Genre: Realistic Fiction, Book Level 4.5**

Tommy's the new kid in town, like he's been so many times before. Now he goes by the name Brock, and he's having a hard time fitting in, especially when his new friend is the bully from the wrong side of the tracks. Thanks to a prank gone wrong, the baseball coach notices Brock and offers him a place on his failing baseball team. But can Brock prove himself on and off the field before he becomes a new kid...again?

## *Children of the Storm: The Autobiography of Natasha Vins*

By Natasha Vins

**Genre: Autobiography, Book Level 6.8**

Young, school-age Natasha receives pressure from her teachers to give her unquestioning allegiance to the Soviet State. Anti-Christian sentiment dogs her family's life as well. The Vins family faces imprisonment, humiliation, court trials, and loss of jobs as part of the persecution waged by their government. In her teen years, Natasha begins to see that doors close to those who remain faithful to Christ. Now she must count the cost and decide for herself whether she wants to pay the price.

## *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

By William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

**Genre: Biography, Book Level 5.8**

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

## *One Crazy Summer*

By Rita Williams Garcia

**Genre: Historical Fiction, Book Level 4.6**

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

## *A Long Walk to Water*

By Linda Sue Park

**Genre: Historical Fiction, Book Level 5.0**

*A Long Walk to Water* begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Notes

Book Title:

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Genre:

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Point of View (1<sup>st</sup> person, 3<sup>rd</sup> person):

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Main Character:

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Supporting Character(s):

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Setting:

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Plot:

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Conflict/Resolution:

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Give your personal rating of this book on a scale of 1 to 5. 1 is the worst book I've ever read, 5 is one of the best books I've ever read. You must support your rating with two specific reasons.

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