



2019-2020 Trafton Academy Optional Expanded Summer Reading List Incoming Seventh Grade

Please read as many books as possible from the list below during the summer.

Allende, Isabel. ***City of the Beasts***. Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold leaves his home and family to join his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter, on an epic voyage with magical realism to a dangerous, remote part of the Amazon.

Avi. ***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***. Not every thirteen-year-old girl is accused of murder, brought to trial, and found guilty. Charlotte Doyle is just such a girl, and she swears to tell the truth in all its detail. It happened during the summer of 1832 aboard a ship called the Shipwreck.

Bauer, Joan. ***Hope Was Here***. When sixteen year old Hope and her aunt take new jobs as waitress and cook at the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with a political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.

Bauer, Joan. ***Stand Tall***. Tree, a six-foot-three-inch-twelve-year-old, copes with his parents' recent divorce and his failure as an athlete by helping his grandfather, a Vietnam vet and recent amputee, and Sophie, a new girl at school.

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. ***I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust***. The author, who was thirteen when the Nazis invaded Hungary, describes in excruciating detail what it was like to be one of the few teenage inmates of Auschwitz and the miraculous twists of fate that helped her survive.

Cabot, Meg. ***All-American Girl***. Sophomore Samantha Madison stops a presidential assassination attempt, is appointed teen ambassador to the United Nations, and catches the eye of the very cute First Son.

Cadnum, Michael. ***Ship of Fire***. In 1587, sailing to Spain on board Sir Francis Drake's ship, Elizabeth Bonaventure, a 17 year-old surgeon's apprentice, Thomas Spyre, finds that, with the sudden death of his master, he must take over as ship's surgeon and prove his skill not only as a doctor but also as a fighter when he is enlisted by Drake to face battle.

Card, Orsen Scott. ***Ender's Game***. Andrew "Ender" Wiggins, who spends his childhood at military school in outer space, believes he is playing computer-simulated war games; in fact he is commanding the last great fleet of capital earth.

Cormier, Robert. ***The Chocolate War***. A high school freshman is shunned and abused by faculty and peers when he refuses to join the school's annual fund raising drive.

Creech, Sharon. ***The Wanderer***. Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin, Cody, record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

Crew, Linda. ***Children of the River***. Having fled Cambodia four years earlier to escape the Khmer Rouge army, seventeen-year-old Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and enjoying life in her Oregon high school as a "regular" American.

Crutcher, Chris. ***Whale Talk***. Intellectually and athletically gifted, T.J., an adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Dash, Joan. ***The World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller***. Despite the double handicaps of deafness and blindness, Helen Keller is portrayed as a very lively and intelligent, sometimes stubborn and vulnerable woman of accomplishment.

Duncan, Lois. ***Killing Mr. Griffin***. A demanding teacher is kidnapped with disastrous consequences.

Farmer, Nancy. ***House of the Scorpion***. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.

Filipovic, Zlata. ***Zlata's Diary***. The experiences of Zlata Filipovic from 1991 through 1993 in Sarajevo reveal an innocent life of piano lessons and birthday parties horrifyingly transformed into days of food shortages, friends dying, and hiding out in a neighbor's cellar during bombings.

Fletcher, Susan. ***Shadow Spinner***. Marjan, a thirteen-year-old girl, joins the harem in ancient Persia to help Shahrazad find tales to entertain the sultan.

Fox, Paula. ***Monkey Island***. Forced to live on the streets of New York after his mother disappears from their hotel room, eleven-year-old Clay is befriended by two men who help him survive.

Greene, Bette. ***The Summer of My German Soldier***. After helping a young German POW escape from an Arkansas prison, Patty suffers the consequences.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. ***Among the Hidden***. In a society that allows only two children per family, the third child is a "shadow child", illegal and forbidden. Luke is "among the hidden" in this chilling novel.

Hesse, Karen. ***The Music of the Dolphins***. After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.

Hesse, Karen. ***Witness***. Residents of a small Vermont town give various points of view and opinions after the Ku Klux Klan tries to infiltrate it. Based on true events, the book takes place in 1924.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. ***When Zachary Beaver Came to Town***. During the summer 1971, in a small Texas town, 13-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the World.

Hunt, Irene. ***Across Five Aprils***. A beautifully written novel offers valuable insights into the difficulties faced by families and communities caught up in the political, economic, and personal upheavals of war. Events of the Civil War unfold "across five Aprils."

Jacques, Brian. ***Triss***. Triss, Shogg, and Wellfo escape from slavery at Riftgard and are pursued across the sea toward Redwall by Princess Kurdah, Prince Bladd, and a band of freebooters who seek the rumored treasure of Brockhall.

Jiang, Ji Li. ***Red Scarf Girl: a Memoir of the Cultural Revolution***. When China's Communist Party detained Ji-li's father, the twelve-year-old was faced with the most difficult choice of her life. She could denounce her father and break with her family, or she could refuse to testify and sacrifice her future in her beloved Communist Party.

Kerr, M.E. ***Gentlehands***. A teenage boy falls in love with an "upper class" girl and gets to know his estranged grandfather in one heartbreaking summer which climaxes in a shattering search for Nazi war criminals.

Konigsburg, E.L. ***Silent to the Bone***. When he is wrongly accused of gravely injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech and only his friend Connor is able to reach him and uncover the truth about what really happened.

Koss, Amy Goldman. ***The Girls***. Realistic portrayal of a popular middle school clique's devolution unfolds through six narrators think twice before sacrificing their individuality for the sake of popularity.

Lawrence, Iain. ***The Wreckers***. Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded.

Levitin, Sonia. ***Dream Freedom***. Marcus and his classmates learn about the terrible problem of slavery in present day Sudan and raise money to help buy the freedom of some of the slaves. Alternate chapters tell the stories of the slaves.

Levitin, Sonia. ***Escape from Egypt: A Novel***. When Moses comes to the Promised Land, Jesse, a Hebrew slave, finds his life changed by his growing faith in God and his friendship with half-Egyptian, half-Syrian Jennat.

Lisle, Janet Taylor. ***The Art of Keeping Cool***. Narrated by thirteen-year-old Robert, this multi-layered novel explores the tensions within a family against a backdrop of the wider conflicts of World War II.

Martin, Ann M. ***A Corner of the Universe***. The summer Hattie turns 12, she meets Adam, a childlike uncle she never knew existed, and who lifts the corners of her universe.

Park, Linda Sue. ***A Single Shard***. Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. Newbery Medal winner.

Paolini, Christopher. ***Eragon***. In Aegaesia, a 15-year-old boy of unknown lineage finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Harris and Me: a Summer Remembered***. Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an eleven-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin, Harris, and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

Paulsen, Gary. ***The Rifle***. A priceless, handcrafted rifle, fired throughout the American Revolution, is passed down through the years until it fires on a fateful Christmas Eve in 1994.

Rees, Celia. ***Sorceress***. 18-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian descended from a line of shamanic healers uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a 17th-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft to make her life with the local Indians.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. ***Esperanza Rising***. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

Soto, Gary. ***Taking Sides***. Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Loser***. Donald Zinkoff is one of the greatest kids you could ever hope to meet. He laughs easily; he likes people; he loves school; he tries to rescue lost girls in blizzards; and he talks to old ladies. The only trouble is that he's a loser.

Spinelli, Jerry. ***Stargirl***. Stargirl, a teen who animates quite Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.

Twain, Mark. ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***. Reckless, lazy, maddeningly inquisitive, yet forever repentant, Tom Sawyer is a universally recognizable character, a classic literary hero.

Whelan, Gloria. ***Homeless Bird***. 13-year-old Koly faces the harsh life of a widow in India and must embroider saris in order to survive.