

## Headwaters Academy 2020-21 Seventh Grade Summer Reading List

Summer is a good time for exploring new books or for reading those that you never had time for during the busy school year. We hope that you find time to read a book or two from the list below ☺ as well as the required reading:

**You are expected to read *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs. You must bring a copy of the book with you to school during the first few weeks, and we will use it as the basis of writing and discussion.** This should be read (or re-read if you want to start early!) between August 1 and the start of school, so that it is fresh on your minds for class discussion.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade English I ask that you *actively* read texts, meaning that you interact with your reading. This can be done by making notes, asking questions, or commenting in the margins or on sticky note tabs. My hope is that when we discuss the books in September, you can refresh the thoughts you had while reading them and participate in class discussions. There is no right or wrong way to interpret these stories: please come with your own thoughts and an open mind.

**Additional Reading:** All books on the list have either been read by us or have been recommended by the American Library Association or other professionals.

### *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness, and no employment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy. With echoes of *Brave New World*, in this 1994 Newbery Medal winner, Lowry examines the idea that people might freely choose to give up their humanity in order to create a more stable society. (Review from Amazon.com)

### *The Education of Little Tree* by Forrest Carter

After the death of his parents, a young boy named Little Tree is sent to live with his Cherokee grandparents. This book is set in the 1930s in Tennessee. Little Tree learns many life lessons by observing his grandparents stand up for their rights, and, in so doing, learns the importance of asserting his own rights. Along the way, the author provides simple lessons about living a simple life, connected to the natural world.

### *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

Where there's trouble, that's where you will find Tom Sawyer. Who else would get out of the boring job of whitewashing a fence by tricking every boy in town to do it for him? And when Tom teams up with rascally Huck Finn, the trouble doubles. Mark Twain captures the carefree, fun-loving world of boys in a long-ago time.

### *A Day No Pigs Would Die* by Robert Newton Peck

This is Peck's semi-autobiographical novel about growing up on a Vermont farm, the love between a father and a son, and the responsibilities of adulthood.

### *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who wanted to be left alone in quiet comfort. That all changed when the wizard Gandalf showed up with a band of homeless dwarves. Bilbo joined their quests, facing evil orcs, savage wolves, giant spiders, and unknown dangers.

### *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery

This classic fable tells the tale of a pilot stranded in the desert. He awakes one morning to find an extraordinary young prince before him. By communicating with the prince, the pilot begins to find the secret of what is really important in life.

### *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it.

### *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

Sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous, this book tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza does not want to belong, not to her rundown neighborhood and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power and inventing for herself what she will become.

*White Fang* by Jack London

In the desolate, frozen wilds of northwest Canada, a wolf-cub finds himself the sole survivor of the litter. Son of Kiche – half-dog, half-wolf – and the ageing wolf, One Eye, he is thrust into a savage world where each day becomes a fight to stay alive.

*Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne

For a bet, Phileas Fogg sets out with his servant, Passepartout, to achieve an incredible journey – from London to Paris, Brindisi, Suiz, Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, Hong Kong, San Francisco, New York, and back to London again, all in just eighty days. There are many alarms and surprises along the way – and a last-minute setback that makes all the difference between winning and losing.

*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse

A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma – and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

When Leo Borlock first spies Stargirl, he can't believe his eyes. Unlike everyone else, she completely stands out by wearing different clothes and acting in unconventional ways. In spite of himself, Leo is smitten with Stargirl, though he tries to convince her to be less outlandish and more "normal." This book is a fun read, with an underlying message of the importance of being unique.

*Sing Down the Moon* by Scott O'Dell

In this Newbery Honor Book, Scott O'Dell tells the story of "the forced migration of Navahos from their original homeland in Arizona to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. It is a poignantly moving first-person story about Navaho life in the mid-1860s." (The Booklist)

*The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi

This historical work of fiction tells the story of Charlotte Doyle, a young girl crossing the Atlantic to rejoin her family. As the only female on the ship, she learns to assert herself and become tougher in ways she never imagined. This is a great coming of age novel and a fun read.

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare

Kit Tyler knew, as she gazed for the first time at the cold, bleak shores of Connecticut Colony, that her new home would never be like the shimmering Caribbean Islands she left behind. In the meadows, the only place where she could feel completely free, she meets another lone and mysterious figure, the old woman known as the Witch of Blackbird Pond. But when their friendship is discovered, Kit is faced with suspicion, fear, and anger.

*The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson

Brash and sassy Gilly Hopkins is nobody's kid. She yearns desperately for a real family and a place to call home. She longs to find her mother but instead only finds another ugly foster home. At first Gilly despises them all. Then she finds herself being slowly drawn into their circle of love.

*Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue* by Julius Lester

This book is a masterful fictionalized account of the largest slave auction in U.S. history, held 1859 in Savannah, Georgia. In a powerfully dramatic format, the voices of enslaved Africans and their masters move between monologues and conversations. This is an accessible novel that allows the reader to understand the moral dilemmas faced by the characters and their challenge to affirm humanity in the midst of slavery. This book is the 2006 ALA Coretta Scott King Book Award winner. (ALA)

*Troy* by Adele Geras

Homer's mighty epic poem, *The Iliad*, is the earliest written literature of Western civilization. Adele Geras, best known for her trilogy based on "Sleeping Beauty," takes on the seemingly impertinent task of retelling the siege of Troy as a young adult novel, but she manages to carry it off with trivializing the original. The great battles of the bronze-clad warriors and the clashes between Achilles, Hector, and Odysseus are seen at a distance from the walls of the city, where the Trojan townsfolk gather to sit each day and cheer the action like spectators at some archaic football game. (Review from Amazon.com)