

2009 Summer Reading List
Incoming 7th Grade

You must read *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World...One Child at a Time* (Young Reader's Edition). **In addition**, you are encouraged to read at least 1 book from this list plus 1 more book of choice for a total of 3 books.

Mandatory Read

Mortenson, Greg, David Oliver Relin and Sarah Thomson.

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time.

In 1993, while climbing one of the world's most difficult peaks, Mortenson became lost and ill, and eventually found aid in the tiny Pakistani village of Korphe. He vowed to repay his generous hosts by building a school; his efforts have grown into the Central Asia Institute, which has since provided education for 25,000 children. *Retold for middle readers, the story remains inspirational and compelling.* (Young Reader's Edition)

Capuzzo, Mike. **Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916.**

Pulitzer Prize nominee Capuzzo brilliantly recreates the summer of 1916, when a rogue great white shark attacked swimmers along the New Jersey shore, triggering mass hysteria and launching the most extensive shark hunt in history.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period.**

Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at an elite private school, alternate telling how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate, even as they are uncovering a long-kept secret about themselves.

Cullen, Lynn. **I Am Rembrandt's Daughter**

With her mother dead of the plague, and her beloved brother newly married and moved away, Cornelia van Rijn finds herself without a friend or confidante—save her difficult father.

Duncan, Lois. **The Third Eye.**

High school senior Karen, who worries that her psychic powers will make her seem different from other people, is frightened at first when a young policeman asks her to use her gift to help the police locate missing children.

Ellis, Deborah. **The Breadwinner.**

Young Parvana lives with her family in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. Because Parvana's father has a foreign education, he is arrested by the Taliban. The family becomes increasingly desperate until Parvana conceives a plan.

Fleishman, Paul. **Seedfolks.**

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

Fleischman, Sid. **The Entertainer and the Dybbuk.**

One night The Great Freddie, a young ventriloquist, is possessed by a dybbuk. A what? A Jewish spirit. A scrappy demon who glows as if spray-painted by moonlight. The dybbuk is revealed to be the ghost of a twelve-year-old boy named Avrom Amos, a victim of the Nazis during World War II. What tricks does the dybbuk have up his ghostly sleeve? Prepare to be astonished.

Freedman, Russell. **Who Was First?: Discovering the Americas.**

Examines the archaeological evidence that various explorers such as the Vikings and the Chinese came to America long before Columbus.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book.**

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

Graham, Kenneth. **The Wind in the Willows.**

Classic animal story of the timeless friendship of Mole, Rat and Mr. Toad.

Hiassen, Carl. **Flush.**

Noah and Abbey must gather evidence to prove that the local floating casino riverboat is emptying sewage into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home (or **Hoot**).

Hinton, S.E. **That was Then, This is Now.**

Sixteen-year-old Mark and Bryon have been like brothers since childhood, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to gradually disintegrate.

Hobart, Sally, and Robert Alexander.

She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer.

When she was just two years old, Laura Bridgman lost her sight, her hearing, and most of her senses of smell and taste. But then a progressive doctor, who had just opened the country's first school for the blind in Boston, took her in. Laura learned to communicate, read, and write--and eventually even to teach.

Hobbs, Will. **River Thunder.**

Despite some reservations, sixteen-year-old Jessie joins her companions from the previous year's adventure on the Colorado **River** for a legal rafting trip through the Grand Canyon.

Horvath, Polly. **My One Hundred Adventures.**

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **Kira-Kira.**

Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-Americans sisters, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam**

Cracker is one of the United States Army's most valuable weapons; a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell.

London, Jack. **White Fang**

The adventures in the northern wilderness of a dog who is part wolf and who eventually makes his peace with man.

Lupica, Mike. **Heat.**

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

McKernan, Victoria. **Shackleton's Stowaway.**

An account of 18-year-old Perce Blackborrow who stowed away on the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and endured many hardships including the loss of five toes to frostbite.

Meyer, Carolyn. **In Mozart's Shadow: His Sisters Story.**

In eighteenth-century Europe, Anna "Nannerl" Mozart, a musician whose talent and dedication is overshadowed by that of her gifted younger brother, Wolfgang, struggles to win the notice of her father and patrons who might further her career, despite her gender.

Mlynowski, Sarah. **Bras & Broomsticks.**

Living in New York City with her mother and her younger sister, Miri, fourteen-year-old Rachel tries to persuade Miri, who has recently become a witch, to help her become popular at school and to try to stop their divorced father's wedding. (Series)

Nicholls, Sally. **Ways to Live Forever.**

Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

Peet, Mal. **Keeper**

The legendary El Gato ("The Cat") quietly narrates a spellbinding tale that begins in a mythic corner of the South American rainforest, where a ghostly but very real mentor, the Keeper, emerges to teach the gangly boy the most thrilling secrets of the game.

Rinaldo, Denise. **Cities of the Dead: Finding Lost Civilizations.**

There's a legend about a great empire that was swallowed up by the sea. Another tale tells of a beautiful city that was buried under ash and falling rock. Did these civilizations ever really exist? And if so, can traces of them be found? That's where archeologists come in. From the harshest deserts to the deepest oceans, they search the world for lost civilizations.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Becoming Naomi Leon.**

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

Sandler, Martin W. **Secret Subway.**

This is the incredible story of the visionary engineer who built New York City's first subway. The Secret Subway is the gripping tale of a man whose vision was years ahead of his time; a man whose dream was crushed by the greed and political jockeying for power that characterized the city in the days of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall.

Selznick, Gary. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret.**

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Scott, Michael Dylan. **The Alchemyst: the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel.**

While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. **Sequel:** The Magician

Smelcer, John. **The Trap.**

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

Thompson, Kate. **The New Policemen.**

Irish teenager JJ Liddy discovers that time is leaking from his world into Tir na Nog, the land of the fairies, and when he attempts to stop the leak he finds out a lot about his family history, the music that he loves, and a crime his great-grandfather may or may not have committed. **Sequel:** The Last of the High Kings.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Flipped.**

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years.

Weston, Robert Paul. **Zorgamazoo**

Written entirely in rhyming verse, this fantastic story will have you marveling at the talent of the writer from start to finish.

Whelan, Gloria. **After the Train.**

Ten years after the end of the Second World War, the town of Rolfen, West Germany, looks just as peaceful and beautiful as ever, until young Peter Liebig discovers a secret about his past that leads him to question everything, including the town's calm facade and his own sense of comfort and belonging.