**Summer Reading 7th Grade: Perseverance**

## “Definition of perseverance**:** continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition**:** the action or condition or an instance of [persevering](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persevering)**:** [steadfastness](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/steadfastness)” (Merriam-Webster).

The books on this summer’s reading list were all chosen because they feature characters who persevere in difficult times. This is an important character trait and life skill we will consider throughout 7th grade.

**Choosing your Book**

Incoming 7th graders are to choose one book from this list to read over the summer. Please carefully review the below list with your parents. When choosing books, readers consider: genre, length, publication date (modern books are paced very differently from classics), difficulty/Lexile level, and topic. Successful readers put time into choosing books that match their interests and abilities! Students going in to 7 Honors must read Agatha Christie’s *And Then There Were None*, but may also choose to explore books on this list.

\*Please be sure to purchase the unabridged version of your book.\*

**Starting 7th Grade**

Please be sure to finish your book by the first day of school. You will want to start your reading class on the right foot. We will be using these texts for a number of weeks. You will not be able to fully participate if you haven’t read your book!

**Reading Expectations**

Try to stay in the habit of reading everyday over the summer. You will be expected to read at home every night in 7th Grade. If you get out of practice, it will be difficult for you to keep up in your reading class! Ask your parents for help if you are having trouble or are out of the habit.

**Perseverance Book List**

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

Published in 2000

“Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico — she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers.”

**Lexile Measure: 750**

**Paperback: 262 pages**

***Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen**

Published in 1987

“Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent’s divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.”

**Lexile Measure: 1020**

**Paperback: 192 pages**

***My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George**

Published in 1959

“Terribly unhappy in his family's crowded New York City apartment, Sam Gribley runs away to the solitude-and danger-of the mountains, Once he's arrived at the wilderness that used to be Gribley's Farm, Sam applies all of his powers of memory and observation -- and everything he can learn in the nearby Delhi public library -- to survive on his own. Sam manages to find a side of himself he never knew.”

**Lexile Measure: 810**

**Paperback: 192**

***Notorious Benedict Arnold* by Steve Sheinkin**

Published 2010

“Most people know that Benedict Arnold was America's first, most notorious traitor. Few know that he was also one of its greatest war heroes. This accessible biography introduces young readers to the real Arnold: reckless, heroic, and driven. Packed with first-person accounts, astonishing battle scenes, and surprising twists, this is a gripping and true adventure tale. The Notorious Benedict Arnold is the winner of the 2011 Boston Globe - Horn Book Award for Nonfiction.”

**Lexile Measure: 990**

**Paperback: 368 pages**

***The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett**

Published in 1911

“When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's great house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. The mansion has nearly one hundred rooms, and her uncle keeps himself locked up. And at night, she hears the sound of crying down one of the long corridors. The gardens surrounding the large property are Mary's only escape. Then, Mary discovers a secret garden, surrounded by walls and locked with a missing key. With the help of two unexpected companions, Mary discovers a way in—and becomes determined to bring the garden back to life.”

**Lexile Measue: 970**

**Paperback: 384 Pages**

***Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

Published in 1876

“Whether forming a pirate gang to search for buried treasure or spending a quiet time at home, sharing his medicine with Aunt Polly's cat, the irrepressible Tom Sawyer evokes the world of boyhood in nineteenth century rural America. With its hilarious accounts of boyish pranks and its shrewd assessments of human nature, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* has captivated generations of readers of all ages. This inexpensive edition of the classic novel offers a not-to-be-missed opportunity to savor a witty and action-packed account of small-town boyhood in a bygone era.”

**Lexile Measure: 950**

**Paperback: 200 pages**

***Watership Down* by Richard Adams**

Published in 1972

*“Watership Down* is the compelling tale of a group of wild rabbits struggling to hold onto their place in the world. Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.”

**Lexile Measure: 880**

**Paperback: 476**

***A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel* by Madeleine L’Engle & Hope Larson**

Published in 2015

“The world already knows Meg and Charles Wallace Murry, Calvin O'Keefe, and the three Mrs--Who, Whatsit, and Which--the memorable and wonderful characters who fight off a dark force and save our universe in the Newbery award-winning classic *A Wrinkle in Time*. But in 50 years of publication, the book has never been illustrated. Now, Hope Larson takes the classic story to a new level with her vividly imagined interpretations of tessering and favorite characters like the Happy Medium and Aunt Beast. Perfect for old fans and winning over new ones, this graphic novel adaptation is a must-read.”

**Lexile Measure: 740**

**Paperback: 392 pages**

(Summaries provided by Amazon and Common Sense Media)