

# Seventh Grade Summer Reading List 2011

REQUIRED READING: Hero by S.L. Rottman

**Please note: Students are required to have this novel read *before the first day of school*. Completion of study guide is *strongly recommended*. A test on *Hero* will be administered during the first week of school.**

CHOICE READING: Choose **one** of the following books:

<u>A Place to Call Home</u> (fiction)	Jackie French Koller
<u>Crazy Lady</u> (fiction)	Jane Leslie Conly
* <u>Up Country</u> (fiction)	Alden R. Carter
<u>Rumble Fish</u> (fiction)	S.E. Hinton
* <u>Sunrise Over Fallujah</u> (realistic fiction)	Walter Dean Myers
* <u>The Boy Who Dared</u> (historical fiction)	Susan Campbell Bartoletti
<u>Jimmy's Stars</u> (historical fiction)	Mary Ann Rodman
* <u>T4: A novel in verse</u> (historical fiction)	Ann Clare LeZotte
* <u>The Giver</u> (science fiction)	Lois Lowry
* <u>The Hunger Games</u> (science fiction)	Suzanne Collins
* <u>The House of the Scorpion</u> (science fiction)	Nancy Farmer
<u>Aphrodite's Blessing</u> (Mythology)	Clemence McLaren
* <u>Afghan Dreams: Young Voices of Afghanistan</u> (non fiction)	O'Brien/ Sullivan
* <u>Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find John Henry</u> (non fic)	Scott Reynolds Nelson
<u>Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World</u> (bio)	Beller/ Chase

Please note:\* *Denotes more sensitive language, subject matter, and/or challenging text.*

## ASSESSMENT FOR CHOICE READING

Students also must have their choice book completely read BEFORE the first day of school. Students are NOT expected to design projects before the beginning of school. We will provide class time and homework time to complete assessment pieces upon their return to school.

A Place to Call Home: To keep her siblings from being separated in foster care, a 15-year-old girl tries to keep her mother's disappearance a secret.

**Crazy Lady:** Increasingly alienated from his widowed father, Vernon joins his friends in ridiculing the neighborhood outcasts: Maxine, an alcoholic prone to outrageous behavior, and Ronald, her retarded son. But when a social service agency tries to put Ronald into a special home, Vernon fights against the move.

**Up Country:** Carl knows he's playing with fire every time he fixes up a stolen car stereo to resell. But he needs the money; how else is he going to get away from his boozing mom and her endless parade of "classy guys"? Then one night his mother's drinking gets out of control and Carl's plan to get himself a decent life takes a nosedive.

**Rumble Fish:** Rusty James is a fourteen year old who loves to fight. He wants to be like his brother, The Motorcycle Boy, a tough guy. Rusty James relies on The Motorcycle Boy to bail him out when he's in trouble, but he can't always do that anymore

**Sunrise Over Fallujah:** Robin "Birdy" Perry, a new army recruit from Harlem, isn't quite sure why he joined the army, but he's sure where he's headed: Iraq. Officially, the code name for their maneuvers is Operation Iraqi Freedom. But the young men and women in the CA unit have a simpler name for it: WAR.

**The Boy Who Dared:** When 16-year-old Helmuth Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmuth's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.

**Jimmy's Stars:** In 1943, eleven-year-old Ellie is her brother Jimmy's "best girl," and when he leaves Pittsburgh just before Thanksgiving to fight in World War II, he promises he will return, asks her to leave the Christmas tree up until he does, and reminds her to "let the joy out."

**T4: A novel in verse:** When the Nazi party takes control of Germany, thirteen-year-old Paula, who is deaf, finds her world-as-she-knows-it turned upside down, as she is taken into hiding to protect her from the new law nicknamed T4.

**The Giver:** In the story of a seemingly utopian city in a futuristic world, Jonas is singled out to receive special training from The Giver—who alone holds memories of pain and pleasure in life.

**The Hunger Games:** Sixteen-year-old Katniss is smart, athletic, and fast. She can take down a rabbit with a bow and arrow, hitting it straight through the eye. Will these skills be enough to survive the Hunger Games?

**The House of the Scorpion:** In a future world where an evil empire called Opium is tucked in between the U.S. and Aztlán (formerly Mexico), a young clone named Matt comes of age.

**Aphrodite's Blessing:** In three love stories spun from Greek myths, Clemence McLaren presents these new retellings — with all their longing, hope, fear, and love — from the woman's point of view.

**Afghan Dreams: Young Voices of Afghanistan:** From street workers to female students in newly formed academies, children who work in family businesses, and pickpockets who steal from visiting photographers, these are the faces of young Afghans who universally wish for peace in their neighborhoods, in their country, in their lifetimes.

**Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find John Henry:** Who was the real John Henry? Historian Scott Nelson brings John Henry alive for young readers in his personal quest for the *true story* of the man behind the myth.

**Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World:** It is said that the choices we make determine the lives we lead. In this book you will meet twenty inspiring individuals who have made peace their choice in life from a Vietnamese monk to a Brazilian musician, from a Swedish children's author to an Iranian-American architect.