

7th Grade Summer Reading at Hampton Academy



The books on this list are not required, simply suggestions. Keep in mind that students should beware when reading the books on this list as they will encounter many mysterious, hilarious, sinister, unusual, fascinating, and even frightening things!

SCIENCE FICTION

Anderson, M.T. Whales on Stilts

Racing against the clock, shy middle school student Lily and her best friends must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.

Card, Orson Scott. Ender's Game

Ender, the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Gould, Steven. Reflex

Over the years Davy had developed his skills at teleportation, but now a mysterious group of people has kidnapped him in order to use his abilities for their own purpose.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Among the Hidden

Imagine that you live in a world where having more than two kids is illegal. Luke Garner is a "shadow child," an illegal third child who must remain hidden from the Population Police. This is the frightening story of a world not too far from our own where Luke meets dangerous new friends that change his life.

Mackel, Kathy. Can of Worms

Bullied and unhappy at school, Mike, who has always thought he might be an alien, sends a distress call into space asking to be rescued from the ignorance and cruelty of his life on Earth.

Orwell, George. 1984

In a grim city and terrifying country where "Big Brother" is always watching and the Thought Police can read your mind, Winston is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions.

Philbrick, W.R. The Last Book in the Universe

After an earthquake has destroyed much of the planet, an epileptic teenager nicknamed Spaz begins the heroic fight to bring human intelligence back to the Earth of a distant future.

Pratchett, Terry. Only You Can Save the World

Johnny endures the tension between his parents, watches TV coverage of the Gulf War, and plays a computer game called Only You Can Save Mankind, in which he is increasingly drawn into the reality of the alien ScreeWee.

White, Andrea. Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083.

It's 50 degrees below zero. The wind and snow blow so hard that you can't see your hand in front of your face. Your heating fuel is nearly gone, and so is your food. How do you survive? Five fourteen-year-olds face this desperate situation on a deadly journey in Antarctica. It is 2083. They are contestants on a reality TV show, Antarctic Survivor, which is set up to re-create Robert F. Scott's 1912 doomed attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. In 2083, reality TV is not just an act...
(Isinglass Teen Read '07 Award nominee)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Blackwood, Gary L. Shakespeare Stealer

This is about a young orphan boy who is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but instead he discovers the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

Holdenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Collier, James Lincoln. The Empty Mirror

Thirteen-year-old Nick, whose parents died in the 1918 flu epidemic, finds out why his mirror image is causing mischief around their New England town and making sure Nick gets the blame.

Cushman, Karen. Matilda Bone

Fourteen-year-old Matilda is an apprentice bone setter and practitioner of medicine in a medieval village.

Kadohata, Cynthia. Kira Kira

This chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950's and early 1960's, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill. This is the winner of the 2005 Newbery Award.

Mazer, Harry. A Boy at War

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenager Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and through the chaos of the subsequent days, he tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell.

Paulsen, Gary. The Rifle

This short novel by Gary Paulson is great for students who are looking for an adventure. A priceless, handcrafted rifle, fired throughout the American Revolution, is passed down through the years until it fires on a fateful Christmas Eve of 1994.

Peck, Richard. The Teacher's Funeral

In rural Indiana in 1904, fifteen-year-old Russell's dreams of quitting school and joining a wheat threshing crew are disrupted when his older sister takes over the teaching at his one room schoolhouse.

Sturtevant, Katherine. At the Sign of the Star

In 17th century London, Meg, who has little interest in cooking, needlework, or other homemaking skills, dreams of becoming a bookseller and someday inheriting her widowed father's book store.

FANTASY

Meyer, Stephanie. Twilight

Isabella Swan's move to Forks, a small, perpetually rainy town in Washington, could have been the most boring move she ever made. But once she meets the mysterious and alluring Edward Cullen, Isabella's life takes a thrilling and terrifying turn. This is a fast read; don't run away from the scary thick book!

Isinglass Teen Read '07 nominee

Bruchac, Joseph. The Dark Pond

After he feels a mysterious pull drawing him toward a dark, shadowy pond in the woods, Armie looks to old Native American tales for guidance about the dangerous monster lurking in the water.

Chabon, Michael. Summerland

Ethan Feld, the worst baseball player in the history of the game, finds himself recruited by a 100-year-old scout to help a band of fairies triumph over an ancient enemy.

SCARY / HORROR

Avi. Wolf Rider: a tale of terror

Have you ever received a prank phone-call? Fifteen- year- old Andy got a call last night from a man claiming he murdered a young college student. Should Andy take the call seriously, or assume it is a gag? Andy is soon caught up in this mystery where nobody believes anything he says.

REALISTIC FICTION

Burgess, Frances Hodgson. Secret Garden

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers many mysteries surrounding and within a locked garden. This is a classic story that all girls should read.

Brooks, Kevin. Lucas.

Fifteen-year-old Cait lives on a small island off the coast of England with her father. Her older brother, home from university, is hanging out with a bad crowd of hard partying teenagers; but Cait wants no part of this group. She is especially fearful of rich boy Jamie Tait. When a mysterious, "fine-looking" boy named Lucas appears on the island, Cait is immediately attracted to him and befriends him, and Lucas helps save her from Jamie. Lucas is living rough, in the woods and the islanders consider him an undesirable "gypsy." *(Isinglass Teen Read '07 Award nominee)*

Crutcher, Chris. Whale Talk

TJ, a multiracial adopted teen, shuns organized sports at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Chicken Boy

Since the death of his mom, Tobin's life has been in disarray; but after he starts raising chickens with his 7th grade classmate Henry, everything starts to fall into place.

Henkes, Kevin. Olive's Ocean

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

Lupica, Mike. Travel Team

After he is cut from his basketball team, twelve- year- old Danny forms his own team of cast-offs that might just have a shot at victory.

Trueman, Terry. Cruise Control

A talented basketball player struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother rendered completely dysfunctional by severe cerebral palsy and a father who deserted the family.

This book is a companion to Stuck in Neutral about the brother, Shawn, who relates his perceptions of his life, family and condition, especially as he believes his dad is planning to kill him.

Wilson, Jacqueline. The Worry Web Site

Mr. Speed creates a web site on which his students can anonymously type their worries and get feedback from their classmates, which helps them sort out everything from pimples to stepfamily problems.

Zinnen, Linda. The Truth about Rats, Rules and 7th Grade

Eleven-year-old Larch has depended on her own rules to help her cope with the life she and her mother share in a trailer in a small Ohio town; but her rules do not help her deal with a rat-catching dog, her best friend's crush, and the truth she learns about her father's death.

BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Maime "Peanut" Johnson by Michelle Green

"Peanut" Johnson was a woman who had to overcome the obstacles of gender and race to pursue her dream of playing baseball, and who finally got her chance when she and other women were invited to play in the Negro Leagues after male players were allowed on major league teams.

Guts: The True Stories behind Hatchet and the Brian Books by Gary Paulsen

Jackie Robinson by Gina De Anglis

This is about Jackie Robinson, an African-American baseball legend who overcame the obstacle of racism in his life and career.

Mirra Images by Dave Mirra

Mirra Images is a photographic autobiography of BMX competitor Dave Mirra, discussing his childhood, how he became involved in biking, and his recovery from being hit by an automobile. The book includes images of his most daring tricks.

P3: Pipes, Powder and Parks by Todd Richards

A professional snowboarder tells of his life and the history, popularization, and acceptance of snowboarding as a sport.

You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? by Jean Fritz

This book describes suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton's life, from her childhood to her fight for the end of slavery and her death 18 years before women were granted the right to vote.

HUMOR

Horvath, Polly. The Canning Season

Thirteen-year-old Ratchet spends a summer in Maine with her eccentric great-aunts, Tilly and Penpen, while hearing strange stories from the past and encountering a variety of unusual and colorful characters.

ACTION / ADVENTURE

Bodett, Tom. Williwaw

In their father's absence September and her brother disobey his orders by taking the boat out on Alaska Bay, where they are caught in a terrifying storm called a Williwaw.

Ehrenhaft, Daniel. The Last Dog on Earth.

Seventeen-year-old misfit Logan adopts a stray dog named Jack . After Logan is sent to boot camp for exploding a mini-mart microwave, he and Jack escape their respective "captors" and miraculously find each other in nearby woods. Logan, cut off from civilization, is not aware of the spreading disease turning family dogs into vicious animals, nor of the fear that has taken over. When the two are nearly starving, Logan is forced to seek help from his estranged scientist father, who eventually discovers that Jack is the key to creating an antidote.
(Isinglass Teen Read '07 Award nominee)

Fama, Elizabeth. Overboard

Escaping from a sinking ferry in the waters off Sumatra, fourteen-year-old Emily fights for survival for herself and a young Indonesian boy, who draws courage from his quiet but firm Islamic faith.

George, Jean Craighead. My Side of the Mountain

A boy runs away from home and spends a year living in the Catskill Mountains with a peregrine falcon.

Will Hobbs writes action packed exciting adventures about teenagers surviving in the wilderness.

Krakauer, Jon. Into the Wild

TRUE story of Chris McCandless, a 24- year- old who walked into the Alaskan wilderness on an idealistic journey and was found dead of starvation 4 months later.

Lawrence, Iain. The Wreckers

Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, John attempts to save his dad and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the Cornish coastal town where they are stranded.

Nix, Garth. Drowned Wednesday

The 3rd book in a series that continues the highly imaginative adventures of Arthur Penhaligon in a riveting high-seas adventure.

Paulsen, Gary. Hatchet

After his parents' divorce, Brian's plane crashes on a remote island where he must learn to survive with only the aid of a hatchet his mother gave him before he left. Most any book by this author is a good bet!

MYSTERY

Avi. The Man Who Was Poe

Edgar Allan Poe reluctantly investigates the problems of eleven- year- old Edmund, whose family has mysteriously disappeared and whose story suggests a new Poe tale with a ghastly twist.

Funke, Cornelia. The Thief Lord

Orphaned brothers have run away from their cruel aunt and uncle and decided to hide out in Venice where they fall in with the Thief Lord, a thirteen-year- old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

Jennings, Richard W. Mystery in Mt. Mole

While twelve-year- old Andrew searches for Mr. Farley, the very unpopular assistant principal at Mt. Mole Middle School, strange things are happening in the town's namesake hill...

Koningsburg, E.L From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler

Claudia and her brother run away from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in order to teach their parents a lesson, and embark upon a mystery involving a priceless piece of art and a strange old woman.

Roberts, Willo Davis. Twisted Summer

Fourteen-year-old Cici hopes for a romantic summer at the beach but instead finds herself trying to solve a murder which had occurred there the previous year.

Scrimger, Richard. From Charlie's Point of View

Best friends Bernadette and Charlie begin 7th grade and help unravel the mysterious case of the Stocking Bandit.

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