

Summer Reading Requirements/Suggestions for Students Entering GRADE SEVEN 2024 – 2025

Although we recognize and hope that many books may be read over the summer, **students are required to read a minimum of four books** to fulfill the SJA Summer Reading Program, including the **Seventh Grade Required Read: *Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings**. (**Please Note: If students choose to read graphic novels as part of this requirement, only one of the four required reads may be from this genre.*) Students need to list all book titles read, including the author's name. Parents must sign this list. The list of books read must be submitted to your classroom teacher on the first day of classes in September. These books may be used as the basis for discussion and writing during the first weeks of school.

We encourage families to make reading a regular part of their summer schedule; in this current era of increased exposure to electronics and digital content, daily reading offers a break from screens, provides a time for parents and children to bond and relax together, and boosts students' attention span, comprehension, and language/vocabulary development – key tools for academic achievement and success.

Reading resources abound. The American Library Association provides a complete online list of Award Books at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia. Baltimore County Public Library (www.bcpl.info), Harford County Public Library (www.hcplonline.org), and the York County Public Library (www.yorklibraries.org) offer additional resources and programs for students. Their websites include suggested reading lists by age, information on youth reading programs and events, including this year's Summer Reading Challenge, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," and a large selection of e-books and audio books available for direct download. In addition, we encourage you to link to the Baltimore County or Harford County Public Libraries' Research Databases to access NoveList K-8 Plus. This database is an excellent source for book recommendations based on age, fiction/non-fiction, interest, and genre.

We are asking that every Seventh Grade student have a current public library card for the upcoming school year. Library cards may be obtained in person or online from your local library branch. A public library card gives students access to the available resources detailed above, as well as to academic databases that may be used during the year for class assignments and/or projects.

REQUIRED READ

All students entering Seventh Grade must read: *Red Kayak* by Priscilla Cummings.

SUGGESTED READING

Listed below are selections from the 2024 – 2025 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award nominees in the Grades 6-8 Novel Category and Graphic Novel Category. *All titles are listed as suggestions only.*

2024 – 2025 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Novels

- *Serwa Boateng's Guide to Vampire Hunting* Roseanne A. Brown
- *The Probability of Everything* Sarah Everett
- *Concealed* Christina Diaz Gonzalez
- *Two Degrees* Alan Gratz
- *Harboring Hope: The True Story of How Henny Sinding Helped Denmark's Jews Escape the Nazis* Susan Hood
- *The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne* Jonathan Stroud
- *Hunters of the Lost City* Kali Wallace

2024 – 2025 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee Selections: Graphic Novels

- *Eerie Tales from the School of Screams* Graham Annable
- *Lost in Taiwan* Mark Crilley
- *Santiago! Santiago Ramon y Cajal – Artist, Scientist, Troublemaker* Jay Hosler
- *Sunshine* Jarrett J. Krosoczka
- *Buzzing* Samuel Sattin
- *The Faint of Heart* Kerilynn Wilson
- *Play Like a Girl A Graphic Memoir* Misty Wilson
- *Twig* Skottie Young

2024 Newbery Medal

The Eyes and the Impossible Dave Eggers

Short Story Collections

Suggested authors and titles include, but are not limited to:

Edgar Allen Poe

Carl Sandburg

Jane Yolen

What Do Fish Have to do With Anything? by Avi

Every Living Thing by Cynthia Rylant

Dare to be Scared: Thirteen Stories to Chill and Thrill by Robert D. San Souci

Guys Read Series (Humor, True Stories, Sports, Science Fiction, Thrillers, Heroes & Villians) edited by Jon Scieszka

Fear: 13 Stories of Suspense and Horror edited by R.L. Stine

Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in Their Youth to Become Stars by Gregory Zuckerman