

UPPER MORELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING LIST
Grade 7

June, 2021

Dear Parents and Incoming Seventh Grade Students,

The summer months offer a wonderful opportunity for children to read for pleasure. Therefore, the seventh grade literacy teachers have prepared a list of titles from which students may choose. The list of titles, authors, and a brief summary of each book is attached. Each title has been selected for its high interest level. Each is suitable for a middle school audience.

All incoming seventh graders must select at least one title to read over the summer months from the options provided. While reading, students should keep in mind the elements of plot, characters, setting, and theme.

There is a story map below for all students to complete prior to the start of school in September. It will be collected promptly on the first day of school. These books will also be the focus of a graded project in September.

The grade level equivalencies of each book have been listed next to the title. Please keep in mind the reading level of your child when selecting a book. The Learning Support Teachers and Grade Level intervention teachers recommend *Rules* by Cynthia Lord and *The Bully* by Paul Langan.

The books for the summer reading program are available from the public library. Titles can also be purchased online or in a bookstore.

Sincerely,
Grade 7 Literacy Teachers

Ugly by Robert Hodge (Reading Level 5)

When Robert Hodge was born, he had a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs. Surgeons removed the tumor and made him a new nose from one of his toes. Amazingly, he survived—with a face that would never be the same. Strangers stared at him, kids called him names, and adults could be cruel in their own ways. Everybody seemed to agree that Robert was "ugly." But Robert refused to let his face dictate his entire life. Then, when Robert came face to face with the biggest decision of his life, he followed his heart. This poignant memoir about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities shows that what makes us "ugly" also makes us who we are.

The Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica (Reading Level 7.5)

Thirteen-year-old Nate Brodie's life would seem to be the stuff of adolescent boys' dreams: he is the star quarterback of his school football team and has a great relationship with his best friend and soulmate, Abby McCall. However, all is not smooth sailing. The Brodies are in danger of losing their home in the economic downturn, and Abby's eyesight is failing due to a rare congenital disease. Nate thinks he may have the opportunity to solve all of his problems when he wins the chance to make a million dollars by throwing a football through a small target during halftime at a pro football game. Unfortunately, his quarterbacking skills suddenly and mysteriously desert him just as he is preparing for his big moment.

Rules by Cynthia Lord (Reading Level 4.5)

Twelve-year old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" – in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the Summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the potential next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What *is* normal?

Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick (Reading Level 6.2)

Being a member of the All-Star Jazz Band, having a hopeless crush on the hottest girl in school, and playing the part of the generic role model to his younger brother, Jeffrey, is enough to keep thirteen-year-old Steven busy in his average life, but when a tragic event happens within his family, Steven begins to realize what really matters most in the world.

The Bully by Paul Langan (Reading Level 5.2)

A new life. A new school. A new bully. That's what Darrell Mercer faces when he and his mother move from Philadelphia to California. After spending months living in fear, Darrell is faced with a big decision. He can either keep on running from this bully or find some way to fight back.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements (Reading Level 6.2)

Bobby Phillips is an average fifteen-year-old-boy. Until the morning he wakes up and can't see himself in the mirror. Not blind, not dreaming-Bobby is just plain invisible. There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to Bobby's new condition; even his dad the physicist can't figure it out. For Bobby that means no school, no friends, no life. He's a missing person. Then he meets Alicia. She's blind, and Bobby can't resist talking to her, trusting her. But people are starting to wonder where Bobby is. Bobby knows that his invisibility could have dangerous consequences for his family and that time is running out. He has to find out how to be seen again-before it's too late.

Name _____

Date _____

Book Title & Author _____

Story Map

Characters

Setting

Conflict/Problem

Major Events
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Climax

Resolution

Theme

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*Additional events may be added if necessary

