

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading 2019

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## Note to Parents

*One of our district's primary goals is to develop lifelong readers and learners. For this reason, we like to offer students a variety of books from which to select.*

*Each middle school student is required to select **at least one** book from his or her grade level's summer reading list. Each student should read this book for enjoyment while keeping the grade level guiding questions and theme in mind. It is the student's responsibility to record evidence from the text and a brief explanation of how it relates to the grade level theme on the attached handout. This will help your child be prepared to write and speak about the text upon his or her return to school in September.*

*Thank you for encouraging your child's reading. We look forward to building on the foundation you have helped establish during the summer.*

***The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown:*** This book tells the tale of the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team—nine working class boys who stormed the rowing world, transformed the sport, and galvanized the attention of millions of Americans. At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his crew and his generation. With rowers who were the sons of shipyard workers and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

***Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan:*** Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. Willow manages to push through her grief to discover and unite a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family.

***The Crossover by Kwame Alexander:*** Twin brothers Josh and Jordan Bell are awesome on the court. But, Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious novel of family. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

***Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev:*** When the entire Warsaw Ghetto is evacuated during World War II, one boy still remains hidden, waiting in obedience for his father to return as he told him he would. The young boy must struggle to survive in the midst of fear and danger.

### You can find the books at these locations:

**Cherry Hill Public Library** • [www.chplnj.org](http://www.chplnj.org)  
856-667-0300

**Barnes & Noble** • [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)  
Cherry Hill – 856-486-1492  
Marlton – 856-596-7058  
Moorestown – 856-608-1622

### For more resources about the books, please visit

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/q14frwy>

Username: chclc  
Password: books



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Thematic Topic: Life's Journey

### Guiding questions:

- In what ways can personal challenges help people develop courage and wisdom?
- How do life experiences influence the way people understand, and interpret the world around them?
- How do people find meaning and purpose in the personal challenges faced along life's journey?
- In what ways are personal choices influenced by the society/culture of an individual and the age in which he/she lives?

**Directions:** The book you have chosen to read this summer will help you to learn about the personal challenges faced in life's journeys. Consider the questions above as you read your book. Complete the double-entry journal below with textual evidence and reasoning. Be sure to include examples from the beginning, middle and end of the book. Feel free to use extra paper if you run out of room to write.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.	Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced.
<p><i>"... I stared at him and realized that he and I were dressed alike.</i></p> <p><i>But he was pulling a cleaning trolley, not luggage with wheels that have a 360-degree rotating option.</i></p> <p><i>And then I had the distressing thought: It was possible that the girl believed I was some kind of maintenance worker."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Pages 31-32</i></p>	<p><i>Willow planned to wear a gardening outfit and hat for the first day of middle school, to show her peers her personality and get a fresh start. She was hopeful she would make new friends, but instead she was again outcast by them. Willow realizes that it is harder to fit in than she thought, and she spends her time in class studying how her peers dress and act.</i></p>
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Textual evidence of an event or challenge that is important in the character's life journey.	Explain what the character learned from the event or personal challenge he/she experienced.
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