

McCarroll Middle School

7th Grade Pre-AP ELA Summer Reading Project

One of the goals of Decatur ISD is to assist your child in becoming a lifelong learner. Fostering a love of reading has many rewards! The summer months provide the perfect opportunity to extend and enrich your child's reading and learning experiences. To meet that goal, ALL incoming 7th graders, who enrolled in Advanced ELA, will participate in our summer reading assignment by reading one of the books from the 2023 Lone Star List. Attached to this flyer, there is summary of all of the books on the list. Students will need to choose a book that they have not previously read and make sure to complete it by the first day of the 2023 - 2024 school year. Their very first **MAJOR GRADE** for ELA will be a test over their chosen book. They will be allowed to use the book as a reference during their test; however, they will need to bring their own copy.

Thank you in advance for your support. The seventh grade teachers look forward to partnering with you in your child's education.

Have a great summer,
7th Grade ELA Teachers

Name: _____

The Lone Star Reading List encourages reading for pleasure and is aimed at students in grades 6-8. Each year, up to 30 books—exploring a variety of topics, reading tastes, and maturity levels—are chosen by a committee of school and public librarians from across Texas.



2023 Lone Star List



Perfectly Parvin, by Olivia Abtahi

How this book stands out: After being dumped at the beginning of freshman year, Iranian-American Parvin sets out to win the ultimate date to Homecoming. She navigates freshman year, Farsi school, and her friendships all while trying to discover who she truly is.

You might also like: *Wave, When Dimple Met Rishi, My Sister's Big Fat Indian Wedding*



Iveliz Explains It All, by Andrea Beatriz Arango

How this book stands out: Starting seventh grade, Iveliz struggles with anger issues and depression, without knowing where these feelings come from. The novel -in- verse format makes the novel a quick read and highlights Iveliz's emotions, frustrations, and triumphs.

You might also like: *Home Is Not a Country, When Life Gives You Mangos, How to Find What You're Not Looking For*



The Swag Is in the Socks, by Kelly J. Baptist

How this book stands out: Twelve-year-old Xavier Moon gets the courage to step out of the shadows when his great-uncle gives him some outlandish socks and some even stranger requests.

You might also like: *Keeping It Real, Black Boy Joy, The Season of Styx Malone*



The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls, by James Bird

How this book stands out: Due to shoplifting, a judge orders Benjamin to live with his estranged father on the Ojibwe reservation and to begin a "boot camp" that is supposed to grant him a second chance.

You might also like: *Rez Dogs, Troublemaker, Golden Girl*



The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen by Isaac Blum

How this book stands out: Hoodie Rosen is an Orthodox Jewish teen who recently moved to an unwelcoming new neighborhood. He is conflicted when he begins to have feelings for Anna-Marie. With anti-Semitic attacks plaguing the town, Hoodie must figure out what really matters.

You might also like: *Letters to Cuba, The Trouble in Me, Ghost Boys*



Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling

How this book stands out: Jolene is the only viewer of a livestream where she watches Addie fly a plane across the desert, and when she witnesses Addie crash, Jolene is determined to find her friend.

You might also like: *Canyon's Edge, Alone, Paradise on Fire*



The Girl in the Lake by India Hill Brown

How this book stands out: When Celeste and her cousins arrive at their grandparents' lake house, they experience flickering lights, the sound of footsteps in the attic, and the appearance of a girl who looks just like Celeste. This horror novel, which mixes in a bit of history, will keep readers engaged and on the edge of their seat.

You might also like: *Only If You Dare: 13 Stories of Darkness and Doom, Monsters in the Mist, The Forgotten Girl*



Falling Short by Ernesto Cisneros

How this book stands out: Best friends Marco and Isaac are as different as night and day. Marco is a strong student, but not such a strong athlete. Isaac is a fantastic basketball player, but struggles to keep his grades up. Can the boys stay friends when middle school starts, or will their friendship fall short?

You might also like: *Crossover, Restart, Ten Thousand Tries*



The Marvellers by Dhonielle Clayton

How this book stands out: None of the Marvellers welcome Conjuror Ella on the first day of school. Ella eventually makes friends and begins to find her way. When a dangerous Marvellor escapes from prison with the help of a Conjuror, Ella and her friends take it upon themselves to find the escapee.

You might also like: *Wildseed Witch, Witchlings, Harry Potter series*



Rain Rising by Courtne Comrie

How this book stands out: Novel-in-verse about Rain, who must overcome sadness after her all-star brother is beaten at a frat party. Genesis Begins Again meets Brown Girl Dreaming in this powerful story of perseverance, family, and hope.

You might also like: *For Black Girls Like Me, Genesis Begins Again, My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich*



Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero by Saadia Faruqi

How this book stands out: Yusuf is excited to start middle school, but with the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks coming up, it feels like the country's same anger and grief is all focused on his Muslim community.

You might also like: *Shine On, Luz Véliz!, Home Is Not a Country, Ground Zero*



Rules for Vampires by Alex Foulkes

How this book stands out: The Nevermoor series meets Hotel Transylvania in this adventure set in a world of talking spiders, living forests, and haunted castles about a vampire girl who wants to fit in but first must defeat an evil ghost.

You might also like: *The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod series, Long Live the Pumpkin Queen, The Monsters of Rookhaven*



Concealed by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

How this book stands out: Witness Protection has taught Katrina how to be adaptable, and when her parents disappear, she must face secrets she never knew and learn to trust other people.

You might also like: *Greetings from Witness Protection!, The Strangers, Last Gamer Standing*



The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera

How this book stands out: Petra wants to be a storyteller like her abuelita, but as the human race is sent into space and she awakens, no one except her even remembers Earth.

You might also like: *Last Day on Mars, The Giver, Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs*



Shinji Takahashi and the Mark of the Coatl by Julie Kagawa

How this book stands out: To free himself from an ancient curse, thirteen-year-old Shinji Takahashi must team up with a secret organization of explorers, find a magical font hidden in the jungles of Mexico, and replace a stolen idol.

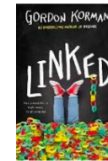
You might also like: *Ballad & Dagger, Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit, Jade Fire Gold*



Jennifer Chan is Not Alone by Tae Keller

How this book stands out: Jennifer Chan goes missing, and Mallory is set on finding her. This story asks hard questions about the universe, aliens, social norms, and bullying culture.

You might also like: *The School for Whatnots, Those Kids from Fawn Creek, Bad Best Friend*



Linked by Gordon Korman

How this book stands out: When swastikas begin appearing all over town, Link, Michael, and Dana, the only Jewish girl in town, must face crimes both past and present to find the truth.

You might also like: *Freak the Mighty, Turtle Boy, Maizy Chen's Last Chance*



One for All by Lillie Lainoff

How this book stands out: As the daughter of a Musketeer, Tania has trained in sword fighting, but she is only seen as a "sick girl" by her peers. When her father is found murdered, she is sent to a finishing school and is shocked to discover she was really sent there to train to be a secret Musketeer and spy.

You might also like: *The Patron Thief of Bread, Curses, The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy*



Flip the Script by Lyla Lee

How this book stands out: Hana finally lands her dream role in a K-drama, but fake-dating her costar, Bryan, is part of the deal. What will happen when she develops feelings for the other female lead, Minjee, instead?

You might also like: *I'll Be the One, A Taste for Love, The Way You Make Me Feel*



Hummingbird by Natalie Lloyd

How this book stands out: Olive’s disability has always kept her homeschooled, but her parents have finally agreed to let her attend middle school. Yet, middle school isn’t what she thought it would be.

You might also like: *Out of My Heart, Tune It Out, A Monster Like Me*



Battle Dragons: City of Thieves by Alex London

How this book stands out: In a modern city built around dragons, Abel gets caught up in the world of underground dragon battles and a high-stakes gang war that could tear his family apart.

You might also like: *Legend, Dragon Ops, Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms*



A Forgery of Roses by Jessica S. Olson

How this book stands out: Myra hides her ability to heal her patrons when she paints them, but when the governor's wife blackmails Myra into painting her deceased son, Myra can’t refuse.

You might also like: *We Are the Song, Luminous, Hotel Magnifique*



Black Bird, Blue Road by Sofiya Pasternack

How this book stands out: Twins Ziva and Pesah have an unbreakable bond that is threatened by Pesah’s battle with leprosy. When Pesah has a vision of the Angel of Death, Ziva refuses to accept her brother’s fate. They journey to find a cure for Pesah before it’s too late.

You might also like: *Many Waters, A Ceiling Made of Eggshells, Homeless Bird*



Tumble by Celia C. Pérez

How this book stands out: Adela Ramirez’s step-father wants to adopt her. But first, she reaches out to her estranged biological father, a well-known luchador named Manny “The Mountain” Bravo.

You might also like: *Lupe Wong Won’t Dance, The First Rule of Punk, Bump*



Children of the Fox by Kevin Sands

How this book stands out: Callan and four other young criminals with unusual and unique talents are recruited to pull off a difficult heist from the city's most powerful sorcerer.

You might also like: *Hide and GEEK, City Spies, The Last Mapmaker*



The Clackity by Lora Senf

How this book stands out: When Evie’s aunt disappears, she makes a deal the Clackity to save her aunt. She must unravel the puzzles and traps laid out for her in the town ruled by a dead serial killer.

You might also like: *Small Spaces, Doll Bones, The Monsters of Rookhaven*



I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys

How this book stands out: Seventeen-year-old Christian Florescu wants nothing to do with Ceaușescu’s regime but is forced to spy on his family and friends and report back. Will Christian betray everyone? Or will he join the fight in overthrowing the dictator?

You might also like: *Lines of Courage, The Fountains of Silence, The Genius Under the Table: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*



Skandar and the Unicorn Thief by A. F. Steadman

How this book stands out: Unicorns are vicious, blood-thirsty creatures, and Skandar always wanted to be a rider, but he was not expecting the mystery, danger, and secrets when he is spirited away to a secretive island after the theft of the most powerful unicorn.

You might also like: *Kelcie Murphy and the Academy for the Unbreakable Arts, Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms, Wings of Fire series*



The Language of Seabirds by Wil Taylor

How this book stands out: Jeremy isn’t too excited to spend the summer with his uncle and newly divorced father, and he and his dad haven’t been getting along very well. When he meets a boy named Evan, their friendship unexpectedly blooms into something more.

You might also like: *In the Key of Us, Thanks a Lot, Universe, Small Town Pride*



Dust & Grim by Chuck Wendig

How this book stands out: Molly meets her brother Dustin for the first time and discovers the family mortuary tends to monsters, not humans. Using cosplay to give her strength, Molly has to overcome her past, embrace her new monster friends, and learn to be a part of a true family.

You might also like: *Rules for Vampires, The Graveyard Book, The Supernatural Society*