

# Summer 2023 Reading Adventures & Assignments

for Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students & Families,

Greetings & Welcome to your summer 2023 reading adventure! This summer you are asked to read at least **two books** and complete **one project** prior to the first day of school. Bring your project (and books) into class on the first day of school. I hope that you will enjoy your reading time this summer, whether it happens on a rainy day indoors, during a long car or plane trip, on the sand at a beach, high up in a tree, and any other times and places that suit you. I will be happy to hear you share all your reading adventures!

## Books

Our entire middle school is reading one book this summer. We will discuss and work with it during our special back-to-school celebrations on the second day of school. The **required reading** book is:

 *An Invisible Thread: A Young Readers' Edition* by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

You may choose your second book from the following list of good reads.

 *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park (historical fiction)

 *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein (mystery/adventure)

 *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep (historical/fantasy fiction)

 *The Black Arrow* by Robert Louis Stevenson (historical/adventure/romance fiction)


 *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau (science fiction)

 *The Forestwife Trilogy* by Theresa Tomlinson (historical/adventure fiction)

 *The Green Bicycle* by Haifaa al Mansour (fiction)

 *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* by Lamar Giles (adventure/science fiction)

 *The Master Puppeteer* by Katherine Paterson (historical fiction)

 *The Second Mrs. Giaconda* by E.L.Konigsburg (historical fiction)

## Projects

Complete one of the following projects for the book you chose to read. (You may complete more than one project if you would like, for different books or the same book.) This project will be all your own handiwork - illustrations drawn and text written by hand. Please remember that all text must be written in ink on your final project, just like in a main lesson book. You may choose to use any easy-to-read colors or types of ink that fit your design.

### ● *Create your own book jacket!*

This creative project gives you the chance to “sell” your chosen book to others. Imagine that you work for the publisher. How would you design the outside of this book so that others would want to buy and read it?

Using a piece of paper that is at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches large, you will fold it to create a front cover, back cover, and the spine of the book. Create an illustration for the front cover that draws from the main theme or point of the book. Remember to include the title and author on the front cover! The title and author will also go on the spine of the book. How can you make the spine of this book grab someone's attention? For the back cover, you will create a smaller (maybe background) illustration. You will write a "blurb" that gives an idea of who and what the book is about. This is not a summary - it should build the reader's curiosity and leave them wanting to know more. (Cliffhangers here are good!). You will also include at least three "promotional quotations" or "testimonials" from imagined readers of the book. You will make these up. Feel free to imagine the names of the readers as well as their thoughts about the book.

- *Create a set of trading cards!*

Choose at least six characters and two important locations or items from your book to create a colorful set of trading cards. Whether you make the smallest set of eight cards or a larger set, be sure that your set has a unifying design theme and that each card has a distinct identity. Remember to include the title of the book somewhere in your design. Each card needs to be at least 2.5 inches by 3.5 inches large on heavyweight paper (so that your design and illustrations will not show through on the other side). You may use any media to create your cards (colorful pencil, markers, metallic ink, watercolor paints, foil or holographic paper, etc) as long as both sides are clearly seen.

Each card will have a detailed, colorful illustration and identification on the front side. The back of the card will describe the character, location, or item in detail. Include a sentence or two explaining the significance of the character, location, or item in the story. Feel free to come up with a set of characteristics, skills, statistics, etc similar to what you may see on a baseball, Yu-gi-oh, or Pokémon card and use them on your cards too.

- *Create a diorama ("shoebox scene")!*

Build a three-dimensional replica of your favorite scene from the book. You will also write and include an 8-10 sentence description of what the scene is and why it is important in the book. Remember to include the title and the author in your description.

Create the entire scene, including the setting and characters and represent the plot development that happens. You can even create speech or thought bubbles for the characters to help convey the action! Remember, this is a 3-D creation and you may use found materials (recycled from around your home), nature materials, paper maché, modeling clay, beeswax, legos, cardboard, string/yarn, construction paper, origami, and more to create your scene. Your scene will be housed in a container that you may choose to re-purpose (a shoe-box, large tissue box, crate, delivery box, etc), make, or purchase. Your container does not have to have a lid, though it may (and that can make a nice place to put your description). Your container does not have to be rectangular, though it may be, but if another shape will help you illustrate your scene better then go for it!

I hope that your summers will be filled with adventures, creativity, and relaxation. I am very excited to see you in September and look forward to hearing about your summer vacations as well as sharing in your good reading work! Should you have any questions, please email me at [stemkoskia@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:stemkoskia@waldorfgarden.org)

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Stemkoski