

WCGS Summer Reading Challenge for  
Rising 7th and 8th Graders  
Reading List



**Action**

***Beneath* by Roland Smith\***

*The Last Thing I Remember* by Andrew Klavan  
*Stormbreaker (Alex Rider)* by Anthony Horowitz

**Classics**

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle  
*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell  
*Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery  
*Call of the Wild* by Jack London  
*Christy* by Catherine Marshall  
***The Hobbit (YABOB)\**** or *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien  
*The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle  
*Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne  
*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* by Howard Pyle  
*Out of the Silent Planet* by C.S. Lewis  
*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton  
***The Pilgrim's Progress* adapted by Gary Schmidt\***  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*The Story of King Arthur and His Knights* by Howard Pyle  
*The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells

**Fantasy/Science-Fiction**

*Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston  
***Dragon Slippers* by Jessica Day George (YABOB)**  
*Dragon's Tooth* by N.D. Wilson  
*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card  
*The Game* by Monica Hughes  
*The Giver* by Lois Lowry  
*The Golden Braid* by Melanie Dickerson  
*House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer  
*Leviathan* by Scott Westerfield  
*Mark of the Thief* by Jennifer Nielsen  
*Matched* by Ally Condie  
*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner  
***The Ogress and the Orphans* by Kelly Regan Barnhill\***  
***On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness (Wingfeather Saga)* by Andrew Peterson\***  
***The Ruins of Gorlan (Ranger's Apprentice)\**** or *The Outcasts (Brotherband)* by John Flanagan  
*Skyward* by Brandon Sanderson  
*Sweep* by Jonathan Auxier  
*The Unwanteds* by Lisa McMann

**Historical Fiction**

*The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak  
*Catherine Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman  
*Chains or Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Everything Sad is Untrue (A True Story)* by Daniel Nayeri  
*Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton  
***Lines of Courage* by Jennifer Nielsen\***  
*Refugee* or *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz  
*Shadow on the Mountain* by Margi Preus  
***The Star That Always Stays* by Anna Rose Johnson\***

## Mystery

*And Then There Were None or Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie  
*The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery* by Nancy Springer  
**City Spies by James Ponti (YABOB)\***  
*Death Cloud* by Andy Lane  
**School for Whatnots by Margaret Peterson Haddix\***  
**The Shadow Cipher (York series) by Laura Ruby\***  
**The Superteacher Project by Gordon Korman\***

## Nonfiction/Biography

*All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot  
**Billy Graham or Elisabeth Elliot\* by Janet and Geoff Benge**  
*The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible (Schindler's List)* by Leon Leyson  
*The Boys in the Boat* by Gregory Mone (young readers' edition)  
*The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pederson and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose  
**The Case for Christ, Student Edition by Lee Strobel\***  
*Don't Check Your Brains at The Door* by Sean McDowell and Bob Hostetler  
*Epic Athletes: Stephen Curry* by Dan Wetzel  
*Fallout or Bomb* by Steve Sheinkin  
*The Grand Escape: The Greatest Prison Breakout of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* by Neal Bascomb  
*Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly  
*Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption* by Katie Davis  
*The Plot to Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer* by Patricia McCormick  
*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller  
*Swimming with Faith: The Missy Franklin Story* by Natalie Davis Miller  
*Titanic: Voices from the Disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson  
*Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hillenbrand (young readers' edition)

## Realistic Fiction

**Counting By 7's by Holly Goldberg Sloan (YABOB)**  
*The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya  
*Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams  
*Holes* by Louis Sachar  
*Homecoming* by Cynthia Voigt  
*Nowhere Boy* by Katherine Marsh  
*You Bring the Distant Near* by Mitali Perkins

## Award Winners

*As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds--Coretta Scott King, Schneider Family Book Award (Realistic Fiction)  
*Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan—Newbery Honor (Historical Fiction)  
*Enchanted Air* by Margarita Engle-Pura Belpre Award (Biography/memoir)  
**Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson—Newbery Medal '23 (Historical Fiction)\***  
*Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus-Newbery Honor (Historical Fiction)  
*The Inquisitors Tale* by Adam Gidwitz—Newbery Honor (Fantasy)  
**The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera—Newbery Medal '22 (Science Fiction) (YABOB)**  
*The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley—Newbery Honor (Historical Fiction)

## Sports

*Change Up: Mystery at the World Series* by John Feinstein  
*The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (Newbery Medal)  
**Travel Team by Mike Lupica (YABOB)**  
*The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen  
*Unstoppable or Touchdown Kid\* by Tim Green*  
*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

\* Indicates a title in the 2023-24 Jr. High Reading Program that would earn credit toward the program.  
YABOB—Indicates a title on the 2023 Young Adult Battle of the Books List