

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 (YABOB)\***

**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 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  
*Dragon's Tooth* by N.D. Wilson  
*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card  
***The False Prince* by Jennifer Nielsen (YABOB)\***  
*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  
*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 (YABOB)\***

**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  
*Refugee* or *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz  
*Shadow on the Mountain* by Margi Preus  
*The Star That Always Stays* by Anna Rose Johnson  
***Words on Fire* by Jennifer Nielsen\***

## 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  
*Death Cloud* by Andy Lane  
*School for Whatnots* by Margaret Peterson Haddix  
*The Shadow Cipher (York series)* by Laura Ruby  
**Scat by Carl Hiaasen (YABOB)\***

## Nonfiction/Biography

**Billy Graham\* or Elisabeth Elliot by Janet and Geoff Benge**  
**Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy (Young readers edition) by Eric Metaxas\***  
*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  
*Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly  
*Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption* by Katie Davis  
***The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity* by Nicholas Day\***  
*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  
***The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya (YABOB)\***  
***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 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  
*The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen  
*Unstoppable or Touchdown Kid* by Tim Green  
***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds\***

\* Indicates a title in the 2024-25 Jr. High Reading Program that would earn credit toward the program.  
**YABOB**—Indicates a title on the 2024 Young Adult Battle of the Books List