

Literature & Composition

Mrs. Hensel

Fall of 2024

Summer Reading Choices for Grade 7

A Long Walk to Water Historical / Fiction

Linda Sue Park

Nya goes to the pond to fetch water for her family. She walks eight hours every day. Salva walks away from his war-torn village. He is a “lost boy” refugee, destined to cover Africa on foot, searching for his family and safety.

Two young people...two stories.

One country: Sudan.

This mesmerizing dual narrative follows two threads— one unfolding in 2008 and one in 1985— with one hopeful message: that even in a troubled country, determined survivors may find the future they were hoping for.

A Raisin in the Sun Realistic / Drama

Lorraine Hansberry

(A Screenplay)

A Raisin in the Sun portrays a few weeks in the life of the Youngers, a Black family living on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s. When the play opens, the Youngers are about to receive an insurance check for \$10,000. This money comes from the deceased Mr. Younger’s life insurance policy. Each of the adult members of the family has an idea as to what he or she would like to do with this money. The matriarch of the family, Mama, wants to buy a house to fulfill a dream she shared with her husband. Mama’s son, Walter Lee, would rather use the money to invest in a liquor store with his friends. He believes it will provide a steady income for the family. Amidst their disagreement, the Youngers struggle with a society in which racial and gender inequality is prevalent. Will the Younger family find common ground or will their dreams dry up – like a raisin in the sun?

The Lion the WITCH and the Wardrobe Fantasy

C. S. Lewis

NARNIA...the land beyond the wardrobe, the secret country only known to Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy... the place where the adventure begins.

Lucy is the first to find the secret of the wardrobe in the professor's mysterious house. At first no one believes her when she tells of her adventures in the land of Narnia. But soon Edmund and then Peter and Susan discover the magic and meet Aslan, the Great Lion, for themselves. In the blink of an eye, their lives change forever.

Gathering Blue Dystopian / Fiction

Lois Lowry

Kira, an orphan with a twisted leg, lives in a world where the weak are cast aside. She fears for her future until she is spared by the all-powerful Council of the Guardians. Kira is a gifted weaver and is given the task that no other community member can carry out. While her talent keeps her alive and brings certain privileges, Kira soon realizes that she is surrounded by mysteries and secrets. No one must know of her plans to uncover the truth about her world – and find out what exists beyond it.

Peak

Roland Smith Young-Adult Fiction

When fourteen-year old Peak Marcello's long-lost father presents the opportunity for them to summit Everest together, Peak doesn't even consider saying no – even though he suspects there are a few strings attached. And if he makes it to the top before his birthday, he'll be the youngest person to ever stand above 29,000 feet. It's not a bad turn of events for a guy who's been stuck in New York City with only skyscrapers to (illegally) scale.

Here, in Peak's own words, is the exhilarating, gut wrenching story of what happened on that climb to the top of the world – a climb that changed everything.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer American Realistic Fiction

Mark Twain

This is a famous tale of Tom, a boy from a small town on the banks of the Mississippi River. Tom skips school and has some incredible adventures with his friends Huckleberry Finn and Joe Harper - some real enough - others not quite. They go off and live like pirates, are presumed dead, and return in time for their own funeral. They witness a murder, and discover treasure beyond their wildest dreams.

The Time Machine Science Fiction

H. G. Wells

The year is 802,701. The planet is earth. Only two races of people now exist...the Morlocks and the Eloi. The first live underground in total darkness; the latter are childlike creatures of light. It is a *World of horror and madness*. The time machine by H.G. Wells, is a thrilling story of a contemporary man stranded thousands of years in the future. Transported through the Fourth Dimension by the Time Machine, the traveler finds the human race in a state of weakness and decay...