

# MRS. GREGORY'S

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUMMER READING LIST

As a guide for choosing, keep in mind that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Lexile band is 970L-1120L. A Lexile measure helps to ensure students stay within their comfort zones while still challenging themselves when it comes to reading comprehension.

- Students are to pick **one** book from the following list to read over the summer *and* complete a project over the book. They will present these projects to their classmates when we return to school.

### *Project:*

For their projects, students are to pick out **five** objects and put them into a \*brown paper bag. These objects must all represent aspects of the book, whether figuratively or literally. There should be an object representing each of these five categories:

1. Main Character- Pick an object that represents the main character in some way. This could be an object that represents the character's emotions, actions, physical description, etc.
2. Setting- Pick an object that represents the setting of the story. Some stories may have several different settings. In that case, pick an object that represents at least one of them (be able to explain how that setting is represented by your object).
3. Conflict- Pick an object that represents the main conflict presented at the beginning of the book, whether it's an internal conflict (the main character having an inner struggle) or an external conflict (the main character having a struggle with outside forces).
4. Rising Action- Pick an object that represents a rising action (something occurring in the book that propels the action and further adds to the conflict). Don't pick anything that comes after the climax (that would be a spoiler)!
5. Figurative Meaning- Pick an object that figuratively represents some aspect of the book. (For example, you may have a character in the book who wants to lose weight, so you bring in an elephant that would figuratively represent how that character views himself or herself.)

During the presentation, these objects should be pulled out in the order of a plot diagram (for instance, the object that represents a rising action shouldn't be pulled out before the object representing the setting). A detailed explanation of *why* these objects were picked and *how* they represent each category is expected in order to receive full credit. Be creative! Try to pick objects you think other people reading the same book wouldn't think of. *Extra credit will be awarded if all five objects are figurative (and still cover the first four categories).* All objects MUST be school appropriate.

\*Alternative Options to the Brown Paper Bag: tote bag, grocery bag (as long as items can't be seen), box, etc.

**Jane Austen**     *Pride and Prejudice*     1070L

One of the most universally loved and admired English novels, *Pride and Prejudice* was penned as a popular entertainment. But the consummate artistry of Jane Austen (1775–1817) transformed this effervescent tale of rural romance into a witty, shrewdly observed satire of English country life that is now regarded as one of the principal treasures of English language.

In a remote Hertfordshire village, far off the good coach roads of George III's England, a country squire of no great means must marry off his five vivacious daughters. At the heart of this all-consuming enterprise are his headstrong second daughter Elizabeth Bennet and her aristocratic suitor Fitzwilliam Darcy — two lovers whose pride must be humbled and prejudices dissolved before the novel can come to its splendid conclusion.

**J.R.R Tolkien**     *The Hobbit*     1000L

A great modern classic and the prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*.

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

**John Green**     *The Fault in Our Stars*     850L

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

**William Goldman**     *The Princess Bride*     870L

Anyone who lived through the 1980s may find it impossible—inconceivable, even—to equate *The Princess Bride* with anything other than the sweet, celluloid romance of Westley and Buttercup, but the film is only a fraction of the ingenious storytelling you'll find in these pages. Rich in character and satire, the novel is set in 1941 and framed cleverly as an “abridged” retelling of a centuries-old tale set in the fabled country of Florin that's home to “Beasts of all natures and descriptions. Pain. Death. Brave men. Coward men. Strongest men. Chases. Escapes. Lies. Truths. Passions.”

**Scott Westerfeld**     *Uglies*     770L

The *Uglies* series has more than 3 million books in print, has been translated into twenty-seven languages, and spent more than fifty weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Now all four books feature fresh new covers and will reach an even wider audience. Tally's adventures begin in *Uglies*, where she learns the truth about what life as a Pretty really means.

**R.J. Palacio**      ***Wonder***      790L

*I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.*

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. **WONDER**, now a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

**Patrick Ness**      ***A Monster Calls***      730L

The monster in Conor's backyard is not the one he's been expecting — the one from the nightmare he's had every night since his mother started her treatments. This monster is ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth. From the final idea of award-winning author Siobhan Dowd — whose premature death from cancer prevented her from writing it herself — Patrick Ness has spun a haunting and darkly funny novel of mischief, loss, and monsters both real and imagined.

**S.E. Hinton**      ***The Outsiders***      750L

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

**Steve Sheinkin**      ***Bomb: The Race to Build-and steal- the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***  
920L

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

**Candace Fleming**      ***Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart***      930L

In alternating chapters, Fleming deftly moves readers back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup)—this unique nonfiction title is tailor-made for middle graders.

**Wilson Rawls**

***Where the Red Fern Grows***

700L

Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks.

Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters—now friends—and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.

**Kwame Alexander**

***The Crossover***

750L

"With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is *SIZZLING*. My sweat is *DRIZZLING*. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander.

Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

**Lois Lowry**

***The Giver***

760L

*The Giver*, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on twelve-year-old Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. Lois Lowry has written three companion novels to *The Giver*, including *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *Son*.

**Suzanne Collins**

***The Hunger Games***

810L

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called, "The Hunger Games," a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games. The terrain, rules, and level of audience participation may change but one thing is constant: kill or be killed.