

## Talk About It:

Part of growing as a reader is learning how to think while you read. Ask each other questions before, during, and after reading:

- What was most important about what we just read?
- How did the characters change over time?
- What was your favorite part of that section?
- Did you read anything that might impact your life? How?
- Does this text remind you of something you have read, seen, or heard before? How?



## Get Caught Reading:

Set an example by reading in public. Let everyone see you reading a newspaper or browsing through a novel on the beach or beside the pool. Live up chore time or meal time by taking turns working while one person reads aloud a favorite book or an exciting new novel. Have fun!

## Why should students read during the summer?

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, faculty members Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen have completed a three-year study showing that students lose up to three months of learning every summer—skills they worked hard to acquire during the school year. However, the study showed a significantly higher level of reading achievement in students who took part in summer reading at home.

Allington compares the slide in reading ability to an athlete's fitness. "Just like hockey players lose some of their skills if they stay off their skates and off the ice for three months, children who do not read in the summer lose two to three months of reading development," Allington said.

- from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

### Read more about it:

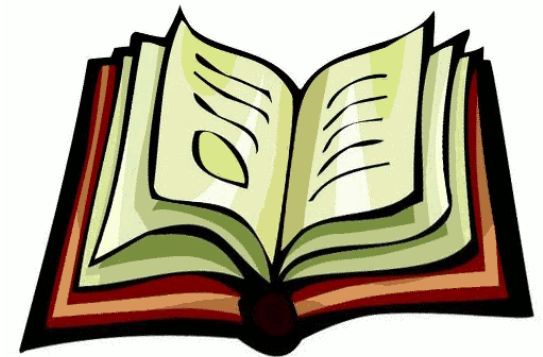
<http://intl.kappanmagazine.org/content/85/1/68.short>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/bridging-summer-reading-gap>

Berkeley County School District

# Summer Reading

Rising 7th Graders



*"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."*  
- American Journalist, Margaret Fuller

Theme:

The Stories of a Culture



## The Themes

Many of the things students will read and write in Grade 7 ELA explore topics related to stories from other cultures and the ways in which those stories reflected the people who told them. Some of the books on these lists are more challenging than others, but all explore these themes through events (plot), characters, and conflicts.

## Summer Reading Project

Consult with parents, teachers, and/or teacher librarians to choose one book from each list (fiction and informational) or other titles from each genre that fit the theme. All rising 7th grade GT students will read *The Lightning Thief* in addition to another title with the shared theme of stories from various cultures. With parent approval of the choices, students will read the two books over the summer. Each school will share rewards and expectations for when school starts in August.

These books and others like them are available not only in school libraries, but also in your public libraries and local book stores. Have a great summer and enjoy the magic of books!

## Fiction Texts such as:

- *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, Eleanor Coerr
- *Esperanza Rising*, Pam Munoz Ryan (E)
- *The Bronze Bow*, Elizabeth George Speare (J)
- *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, ed Edgar Taylor and Marian Edwardes
- *Hans Christian Anderson: The Complete Fairy Tales and Stories*, ed. Virginia Haviland
- *Just Ella*, Margaret Peterson Haddix (E)
- *A Wolf at the Door: And Other Retold Fairy Tales*, Ellen Datlow (E)
- *M is for Magic*, Neil Gaiman (E)
- *Book of a Thousand Days*, Shannon Hale
- *The Goose Girl*, Shannon Hale (J)
- *Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society*, Adeliyen Ma
- *Bound*, Donna Jo Napoli (E)
- *The Red Pyramid*, Rick Riordan (and others in this series) (J)
- *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales*, Virginia Hamilton (E)
- *The Hungry Clothes and Other Jewish Folktales*, Penninah Shram
- *The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales*, James Bruchac
- *The Tale of Troy*, Roger Lancelyn Green (and others in this series)
- *Artemis Fowl*, Eoin Colfer (and others in this series) (E)
- *A Single Shard*, Linda Sue Park (E)
- *The Thief*, Megan Whalen Turner
- *The Thief Lord*, Cornelia Funke (J)
- *The Scorpio Races*, Maggie Stiefvater (J)
- *Airborn*, Kenneth Oppel (J)
- *Around the World in 80 Days*, Jules Verne (E)

## Informational Texts such as:

- *Mythlopedia – All in the Family: A Look-it-up Guide to the Inlaws, Outlaws, and Offspring of Mythology*, Meghan E. Bryant (and others in the series)
- *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths*, Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire
- *Voices of the Wind: Native American Legends*, Ella E. Clark and Margot Edmonds
- *The Norse Myths*, Kevin Crossley-Holland
- *Mythology for Teens*, Zachary Hamby (E)
- *Tales of Ancient Egypt*, Roger Lancelyn Green
- *Tools of the Ancient Greeks*, Kris Bordessa
- *Tools of the Ancient Romans*, Rachel Dickinson
- *City: A Story of Roman Planning and Construction*, David Macaulay (E)
- *Cathedral*, David Macaulay (E)
- *Pyramid*, David Macaulay (E)
- *Castle*, David Macaulay (E)
- *American Tall Tales*, Adrien Stoutenberg (E)

\*Note: Fairy tales and folk tales are included in the fiction list while myths of various cultures are included in nonfiction because these texts are the recorded beliefs of a people.

- (E) = available on the district e-bookshelf
- (J) = available on the public library e-bookshelf via <http://berkeleylibrarysc.org/>

