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# WLPCS SUMMER READING

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7th and 8th Grade – Summer 2017

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## Requirements by Course

Students are required to read the book or books listed for the grade they will enter in the fall.

### English 7

1. *March, Book One* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
2. Three student choice books

### English 8

1. *Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff
2. *Enrique's Journey* (Young Adult Adaptation) by Sonia Nazario
3. Two student choice books

## Student Choice Books

Students will read a required number of choice books (indicated above) from the 7th and 8th grade Independent Reading List.



## Why summer reading?

At Washington Latin, we require that students read over the summer for several reasons. Required texts establish themes for the year, and are frequently the focus of the first unit of the year in each class. They serve as touchstones and jumping-off points for year-long conversations about the essential thematic questions that are at the heart of English courses at Latin. We require summer reading to prevent any loss of reading skills over the summer; summer reading ensures that students are engaged in some of the same activities they pursue during the school year. We believe children learn to read (and think) best when they want to read; we require summer reading to promote reading for pleasure and assist parents in motivating students to read. We are trying to teach students to love reading. We think if children love books, they will do well in life.

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# INDEPENDENT READING LIST

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7th and 8th Grade – Summer 2017

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## Nonfiction

***Why'd They Wear That: Fashion as the Mirror of History* by Sarah Albee** -- In this book, learn about clothing from togas to spatz and discover why those fashions were practical, popular, and stylish.

***Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement* by Ann Bausum** – This book focuses on the lives of college students John Lewis, a black seminarian and student nonviolence movement leader, and Jim Zwerg, a white Wisconsin native, as they participate in dangerous bus integration protests in 1961.

**\**Blood, Bullets, and Bone* by Bridget Heos** -- From Jack the Ripper to CSI: Miami, human beings have been fascinated by the process of solving gruesome crimes, both factual and fictional. This book tells the history of forensic science and its evolution from crude early methods to the cutting-edge techniques we use today.

***Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* by Steve Sheinkin** -- Sheinkin's newest book relates the history of Daniel Ellsberg's release of the Pentagon Papers.

**\**Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune* by Pamela S. Turner** -- Minamoto Yoshitsune was a classic underdog. Small for his age and orphaned, no one really expected great things of him. But, this son of a great samurai could not be held back. He learned the secrets of the ancient warriors and became one of Japan's most notorious fighters. The true story of his life reads like a legend of the most exciting kind.

## Adventure, Survival, and Sports

***Booked* by Kwame Alexander** -- Soccer player Nick learns how to stand up for himself, use his words wisely, and impress the girl he likes with the help of his friends, family, and rapping librarian The Mac.

(+) ***Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz** -- Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is hired by the British government to go undercover and finish his uncle's secret and dangerous mission to investigate an evil technology company.

***True Legend* by Mike Lupica** -- Drew "True" Robinson is a top-ranked high school basketball player, sought by recruiters for the best college teams. As his success gets to his head, he meets a former basketball star that helps him stay grounded.

\* ***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds** -- Ghost has always been running from something, or, more specifically, someone -- his violent father. When he's chosen for an elite middle school track team, he must learn to run for something -- a chance to compete at the Junior Olympics. Can he discipline himself and get his act together or will he waste his shot at being the best?

## Ancient World and Mythology

***King of Ithaka* by Tracy Barrett** -- Telemachus must find his father Odysseus in order to save his kingdom.

***Goddess of Yesterday* by Caroline B Cooney** -- Anaxandra, daughter of a Greek king, becomes involved in the Trojan War after her home is destroyed.

(+) ***Nobody's Princess* by Esther Friesner** -- Even though she would grow up to be the beautiful Helen of Troy, young Helen is more interested in learning to hunt and use a sword than in finding a suitor.

(+) ***The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff** -- Marcus must solve the mystery of his father's Ninth Legion after they all disappeared when they marched into the mists of Roman Britain.

***American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang** -- Yang weaves the folktale of the Monkey King and the stories of two young adults into a story of the triumph of the power of being an outsider.

## Historical Fiction

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson** -- In 1793, a yellow fever epidemic ravaged Philadelphia, the crowded capital of the new United States. Mattie Cook, whose family owns a popular coffee shop, must flee the city to save herself from the dreaded disease.

\* ***The Passion of Dolssa* by Julie Berry** -- Two young women in medieval France -- Dolssa, a passionate young woman who believes God is her lover, and Botille, a local matchmaker, cross paths when Dolssa is on the run from a friar who wants to try and kill her for heresy and Botille helps her hide.

***What I Saw and How I Lied* by Judy Blundell** -- Fifteen-year-old Evie, overshadowed by her glamorous mother, finds out that the stepfather she adores has some serious issues with honesty and honor, and she must make a choice about her own integrity or saving her "family."

\* ***90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis** -- In 1961, Julian's parents send him to Miami from Cuba for his safety and a better life. When he gets to Miami, he finds a different world than he expected, full of bullies that keep him from feeling the safety he hoped for.

\* ***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz** -- When three children face persecution for their beliefs, they join forces to save themselves from the Inquisition. Their adventures on the way to safety lead them through many funny trials, but they also think about serious issues like the nature of miracles, too.

(+) ***Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers** -- After 9/11, Harlem teenager Robin "Birdy" Perry decides to join the Army instead of going to college. When he's sent to Iraq with a Civil Affairs unit, he learns how complicated war and peace can be.

# Horror, Mystery and Suspense

***Heist Society* by Ally Carter** -- Katarina Bishop is from a family of notorious cat burglars. When some important paintings are stolen, Kat's father is the only suspect. Working with a team of teenage criminal masterminds, she must steal back the paintings to save her father.

(+) ***Tiny Pretty Things* by Dhonielle Clayton and Sona Charaipotra** -- Gigi, Bette and June all want the same thing -- to be the prima ballerina in their competitive ballet boarding school. As the competition gets heated, it gets dangerous. Who will be the last ballerina standing?

\* ***I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest** -- When Maya notices Princess X drawings around town that look just like her childhood friend Libby's, she is curious. Who could be making the drawings, especially since Libby has been dead for years?

# Fantasy

\* (+) ***Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo** -- It's the heist of the ages, and, if he can pull it off, Kaz will be the richest criminal in Ketterdam. He can't do it alone though. In this exciting tale, Kaz and his companions join up to commit the ultimate crime.

(+) ***Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman** -- In the kingdom of Goredd, dragons and humans live and work together, but not without prejudice and segregation. Seraphina, a gifted musician, works in the court and must protect her deepest secret -- she is a half-dragon!

(+) ***The Iron Trial* by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare** -- Callum Hunt knows that magic is a death sentence. So, when he is invited to the Iron Trial to enter the Magisterium and be trained as a magician, he knows he must fail at all costs.

(+) ***Alanna: The First Adventure* by Tamora Pierce** -- Alanna has always wanted to be a knight, even though girls are forbidden from fighting. When she changes places with her brother Thom and becomes the squire Alan, she must keep her disguise from being revealed.

# Realistic Fiction

***Does My Head Look Big In This?* by Randa Abdel-Fattah** -- When Amal decides to wear the hijab full-time, she faces a wide variety of reactions from her peers, teachers and community members. While her friends and family are supportive, many others don't understand her decision.

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander** -- The Bell twins Josh and Jordan are basketball stars and best friends, but when Jordan gets a girlfriend, Josh starts to feel left behind.

\* ***Peas and Carrots* by Tanita Davis** -- When Hope meets her new foster sister Dess, she can't imagine that they possibly have anything in common. Dess's mother is in prison, and she couldn't be more different than Hope and her family. Yet, as both girls tell the story of their time together, they find that they both have a deep desire to find a place where they belong.

***Cuba 15* by Nancy Osa** -- Though Violet isn't familiar with her Cuban heritage, doesn't speak Spanish, and doesn't like to wear dresses, she reluctantly agrees to celebrate her quinceañera at the insistence of her grandmother.

***The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds** -- After his mother dies, Matt receives an unexpected job offer -- to assist the funeral director who buried her. Though helping other grieving families lets him process his own feelings, Matt's feeling like he's in over his head. That is, until he meets Lovey.

# Romance and Relationships

***Pinned* by Sharon Flake** -- Autumn is the energetic champion of the school's wrestling team. Adonis is the shy bookworm and the top of the class. They have nothing in common, until they realize they have everything in common. As they become friends, can they help each other overcome their challenges?

**\**Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart** -- 8th graders Lily and Dunkin meet during a time in their lives where they are both struggling with deep challenges. Lily, born Tommy, is a transgender girl. Dunkin has bipolar disorder and is new in town. Together, they learn important lessons about life, bravery, and love.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli** -- Even though she's new at Mica High, Stargirl quickly won over the student body with her quirky personality. As she makes new friends and falls in love, she learns that popularity is fleeting and fickle.

***Goodbye Stranger* by Rebecca Stead** -- Bridge, Emily and Tabitha are best friends with only one rule -- no fighting. As 7th graders, they face new challenges with relationships, social media and betrayal. Can they get through the year without breaking the rule?

# Science Fiction

(+)***House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer** -- Mateo Alcaran is a clone of drug lord El Patron, raised to take the opium-grower's place upon his death. As he realizes the danger of his position, he knows he must escape to save his life.

(+)***Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson** -- In the future, Epics, dark and powerful supervillains, rule over major US cities. When Steelheart, the Epic that rules over Newcago, kills David's father, he plans his revenge.

**\**Scythe* by Neil Shusterman** -- In a perfect world where there is no disease and death, Scythes reign supreme because only they have the power to take a life. Reluctant apprentices Citra and Rowan are taught to master the art of death, and their greatest fears are realized when they are required to chase each other to the death to show off their skills.

(+)***Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld** -- In Tally Youngblood's society, sixteen-year-olds have an operation to make them "pretty," and they live a life of parties and luxury. When Tally discovers a dark secret behind the "pretty" operation, she faces a difficult choice.