
WLPCS SUMMER READING

7th and 8th Grade – Summer 2018

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. Two books from the 7th and 8th grade independent reading list

English 8

1. *Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff
2. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
3. Two books from the 7th and 8th grade independent reading list

Student Choice Books

Students will read the 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 drive 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.

INDEPENDENT READING LIST

7th and 8th grade – Summer 2017

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.

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina (Young Readers Edition) by Misty Copeland -- "As the first African-American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has been breaking down all kinds of barriers in the world of dance. But when she first started dancing—at the late age of thirteen—no one would have guessed the shy, underprivileged girl would one day make history in her field."

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.

Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World edited by Kelly Jensen -- "Forty-four writers, dancers, actors, and artists contribute essays, lists, poems, comics, and illustrations about everything from body positivity to romance to gender identity to intersectionality to the greatest girl friendships in fiction. Together, they share diverse perspectives on and insights into what feminism means and what it looks like."

Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line by Andrew Maraniss -- "When Vanderbilt University recruited Wallace to play basketball, he courageously accepted the assignment to desegregate the Southeastern Conference. The hateful experiences he would endure on campus and in the hostile gymnasiums of the Deep South turned out to be the stuff of nightmares. Yet Wallace persisted, endured, and met this unthinkable challenge head on."

PRIDE by Robin Stevenson -- "For LGBTQ people and their supporters, Pride events are an opportunity to honor the past, protest injustice, and celebrate a diverse and vibrant community....But there is a whole lot more to Pride than rainbow flags and amazing outfits. How did Pride come to be?"

Elon Musk and the Quest for a Fantastic Future (Young Readers' Edition) by Ashlee Vance -- "This book traces Elon's journey from a kid in South Africa to a young man in the United States, his dramatic technical inventions, and his world-changing companies. Elon has sparked new levels of innovation in the world, and this book gives young readers a detailed but fast-paced look at his story."



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 goes to his head, he meets a former basketball star that helps him

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Titles in blue are new titles for 2017.

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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.



Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar -- "Ruthie Mizrahi and her family recently emigrated from Castro's Cuba to New York City. Just when she's finally beginning to gain confidence in her mastery of English--and enjoying her reign as her neighborhood's hopscotch queen--a horrific car accident leaves her in a body cast and confined her to her bed for a long recovery."

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."

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.

X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon -- "Before he was known as Malcolm X, teenage Malcolm Little left his home in Michigan, spending time in Boston and Harlem, converting to Islam and changing his name."

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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.

(+) **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 he must fail at all costs.

(+) **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!

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor -- "Twelve-year-old Sunny lives in Nigeria, but she was born American. Her features are African, but she's albino. She's a terrific athlete, but can't go out into the sun to play soccer. There seems to be no place where she fits in. And then she discovers something amazing--she is a "free agent" with latent magical power. Soon she's part of a quartet of magic students, studying the visible and invisible, learning to change reality.



Shadow Shaper by Daniel Jose Older -- "Sierra Santiago planned an easy summer of making art and hanging with her friends. But then a corpse crashes their first party. Her stroke-ridden grandfather starts apologizing non-stop. And when the murals in her neighborhood start to weep tears... Well, something more sinister than the usual Brooklyn ruckus is going on."

Tempests and Slaughter by Tamora Pierce -- "Arram Draper is on the path to becoming one of the realm's most powerful mages. The youngest student in his class at the Imperial University of Carthak, he has a Gift with unlimited potential for greatness--and for attracting trouble."

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.

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Solo by Kwame Alexander -- "Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy, including the loss of his mother. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship."

Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya -- "Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FAIL?"

Sparrow by Sarah Moon -- "Sparrow has always had a difficult time making friends. She would always rather stay home on the weekends with her mother, reading, or watching the birds, than play with other kids. But when the one teacher who really understood her -- Mrs. Wexler, the school librarian -- is killed in a freak car accident, Sparrow's world unravels and she's found on the roof of her school in an apparent suicide attempt. With the help of an insightful therapist, Sparrow finally reveals the truth of her inner life."

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore -- "It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos."

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds -- "Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds--the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother."

Saving Montgomery Sole by Mariko Tamaki -- "Montgomery Sole is forced to go to a school full of jocks and girls who don't even know what irony is. It would all be impossible if it weren't for her best friends, Thomas and Naoki. The three are also the only members of Jefferson High's Mystery Club, dedicated to exploring the weird and unexplained, from ESP and astrology to super powers and mysterious objects."

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson -- "Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities she doesn't really welcome..."

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.



When the Moon Was Ours by Anne Marie

McLemore -- "To everyone who knows them, best friends Miel and Sam are as strange as they are inseparable. Roses grow out of Miel's wrist, and rumors say that she spilled out of a water tower when she was five. Sam is known for the moons he paints and hangs in the trees and for how little anyone knows about his life before he and his mother moved to town. But as odd as everyone considers Miel and Sam, even they stay away from the Bonner girls, four beautiful sisters rumored to be witches. Now they want the roses that grow from Miel's skin, convinced that their scent can make anyone fall in love. And they're willing to use every secret Miel has fought to protect to make sure she gives them up."

When Dimple Met Rishi by Sandhya Menon -- "Dimple Shah has it all figured out. With graduation behind her, she's more than ready for a break from her family, from Mamma's inexplicable obsession with her finding the "Ideal Indian

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Husband. Rishi Patel is a hopeless romantic. So when his parents tell him that his future wife will be attending the same summer program as him—wherein he'll have to woo her—he's totally on board. Because as silly as it sounds to most people in his life, Rishi wants to be arranged, believes in the power of tradition, stability, and being a part of something much bigger than himself."

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.

(+) **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.