

WLPCS SUMMER READING

7th and 8th Grade – Summer 2019

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. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
2. 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.



Washington Latin PCS * 5200 2nd Street NW * Washington DC 20011 * www.latinpcs.org

INDEPENDENT READING LIST

7th and 8th grade – Summer 2019



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.

***Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka** -- "Raised by his colorful grandparents, who adopted him because his mother was an incarcerated heroin addict, Jarrett J. Krosoczka didn't know his father's name until he saw his birth certificate when registering for a school ski trip. Hey, Kiddo traces Krosoczka's search for his father, his difficult interactions with his mother, his day-to-day life with his grandparents, and his path to becoming an artist."

***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."

***The Girl Who Drew Butterflies* by Joyce Sidman** -- "One of the first naturalists to observe live insects directly, Maria Sibylla Merian was also one of the first to document the metamorphosis of the butterfly... This visual nonfiction biography... paints [the] picture of one of the first female entomologists and a woman who flouted convention in the pursuit of knowledge and her passion for insects."

***PRIDE* by Robin Stevenson** -- "For LGBTQ people and their supporters, Pride events are an opportunity to honor the https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/517I7YRvHBL._SX351_BO1,204,203,200_.jpg 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?"

(+) Students may read any book of the series.

Titles in blue are new titles on this year's list.

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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.

(+) **Masterminds by Gordon Korman** -- "Eli Frieden has never left Serenity, New Mexico...why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and, it changes everything. Soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues mount to reveal a shocking discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known."

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 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.

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Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen – After her mother is shot at a checkpoint, 15-yr-old Sarah—blond, blue-eyed, and Jewish--meets a mysterious man who is part of the secret resistance against the Third Reich. He needs Sarah to infiltrate a school for the daughters of top Nazi brass, befriend the daughter of a key scientist, and steal the blueprints to a bomb that could destroy the cities of Western Europe.

(+)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."



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?

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson – "Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont founded by Albert Ellingham, an early twentieth century tycoon. Shortly after the school opened, his wife and daughter were kidnapped.... True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she has an ambitious plan: She will solve this cold case."

Fantasy

Children of Blood and Bone by Toni Adeyemi – "Danger lurks in Orïsha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers and her growing feelings for an enemy."

(+)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 must fail at all costs.

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Tess of the Road by Rachel Hartman – “In the medieval kingdom of Goredd, women are expected to be ladies, men are their protectors, and dragons can be whomever they choose. Tess is none of these things. Tess is. . . different. She speaks out of turn, has wild ideas, and can’t seem to keep out of trouble.”

Black Wings Beating by Alex London – The people of Uztar revere birds of prey and no one is more honored than the falconers. Brysen strives to be a great falconer—while his twin sister, Kylee, rejects her ancient gifts for the sport and wishes to be free of falconry. But war is coming so the twins must journey into the treacherous mountains to trap the Ghost Eagle, the greatest of the Uztari birds and a solitary killer. Brysen goes for the boy he loves and the glory he’s long craved, and Kylee to atone for her past and to protect her brother.

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.”

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.

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?”

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.”

American Road Trip by Patrick Flores-Scott – “With a strong family, the best friend a guy could ask for, and a budding romance with the girl of his dreams, life shows promise for Teodoro “T” Avila. But he takes some hard hits the summer before senior year when his nearly perfect brother, Manny, returns from a tour in Iraq with a devastating case of PTSD. In a desperate effort to save Manny from himself and pull their family back together, T’s fiery sister, Xochitl, hoodwinks her brothers into a cathartic road trip.”

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...”

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Romance and Relationships

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."

From Twinkle with Love by Sandhya Menon -- "Aspiring filmmaker and wallflower Twinkle Mehra has stories she wants to tell and universes she wants to explore, if only the world would listen. So when fellow film geek Sahil Roy approaches her to direct a movie for the upcoming Summer Festival, Twinkle is all over it. The chance to publicly showcase her voice as a director? Dream come true. The fact that it gets her closer to her longtime crush, Neil Roy-a.k.a. Sahil's twin brother? Dream come true x 2. But then she falls for the irresistibly adorable Sahil instead..."

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?

The Prince and the Dressmaker by Jen Wang -- "Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride—or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia. Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances, but how long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend?"

Pride by Ibi Zoboi -- "Zuri Benitez has pride. Brooklyn pride, family pride, and pride in her Afro-Latino roots. But pride might not be enough to save her rapidly gentrifying neighborhood from becoming unrecognizable. In a timely update of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, critically acclaimed author Ibi Zoboi skillfully balances cultural identity, class, and gentrification against the heady magic of first love in her vibrant reimagining of this beloved classic.

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.

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(+) **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.

Dry by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman – "The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now. Everyone's lives have become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, fill up your pool or take long showers. Then the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa's quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water."

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