For rising seventh graders, the required reading is:

- *March, Book One* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
- TWO choice books from the independent reading list

For rising eighth graders, the required reading is:

- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- TWO choice books from the independent reading list

Non-Fiction

- *African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History* by Tracey Baptiste, illustrated by Hillary D. Wilson
- *Drawn Across Borders: True Stories of Human Migration* by George Butler
- *This Promise of Change: One Girl’s Story in the Fight for School Equality* by Jo Ann Allen Boyce
- *Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle
- *Plasticus Martimus: An Invasive Species* by Ana Pego, illustrated by Bernardo P. Carvalho
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You* by Jason Reynolds
- *How We Got to the Moon: the People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity’s Greatest Adventure* by John Rocco
- *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys’ Soccer Team* by Christina Soontornvat

Ancient World & Mythology

- *The Coming of the Dragon* by Rebecca Barnhouse
- *Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor, and Loki* by Kevin Crossley-Holland, illustrated by Jeffrey Alan Love
- *Gilgamesh the Hero* by Geraldine McCaughrean, illustrated by Davis Parkins
- (+) *Gods and Warriors* by Michelle Paver
- *Skraelings: Clashes in the Old Arctic* by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley
(+) The Eagle of the Ninth (Roman Britain Trilogy, Book 1) by Rosemary Sutcliff
The Shadow Hero by Gene Luen Yang
The Ode to the Goddess of the Luo River by Yu Zhiying, illustrated by Ye Luying

**Historical Fiction**
Letters from Cuba by Ruth Behar
The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman
The Long Ride by Marina Budhos
We Are Not Free by Traci Chee
Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna by Aida P. Dobbs
Downstairs Girl by Stacy Lee
Everything Sad Is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri
Chula the Fox by Anthony Perry
Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney
Dawn Raid by Pauline Smith, illustrated by Mat Hunkin

**Realistic Fiction**
The Other Half of Happy by Rebecca Balcarcel
King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender
Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya
Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year by Nina Hamza
The True Definition of Neva Beane by Christine Kendall
Thanks A Lot, Universe by Chad Lucas
Birdie and Me by J.M.M. Nuanez
Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Crossing the Farak River by Michelle Aung Thin
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
Genesis Begins Again by Alicia Williams

**Romance and Relationships**
A Match Made in Mehendi by Nandini Bajpai
The Brave by James Bird
All American Muslim Girl by Nadine Jolie Courtney
Redwood and Ponytail by K.A. Holt
(+) Crush by Gary Paulsen
Spin With Me by Ami Polonsky
To Night Owl from Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloane and Meg Wolitzer
Well, That Was Awkward by Rachel Vail
Love Is a Revolution by Renee Watson

**Adventure, Survival and Sports**
One Last Shot by John David Anderson
The Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling
Dough Boys by Paula Chase
Illegal by Eoin Colfer
Dog Driven by Terry Lynn Johnson
Strike Zone by Mike Lupica
(+ Blazewrath Games by Amparo Ortiz
(+ Epoca: The Tree of Ecrof by Ivy Pochoda
(+ Ghost by Jason Reynolds

**Horror, Mystery and Suspense**
The Girl and the Ghost by Hanna Alkaf
Hide and Seeker by Daka Hermon
Poe: Stories and Poems by Gareth Hinds
(+ Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson
Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters by Dan Sasuweh Jones, illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre
Elatsoe by Darcie Little Badger, illustrated by Rovina Cai
(+ Ali Cross by James Patterson
(+ The Shadow Cipher by Laura Ruby

**Fantasy**
(+ Children of Blood and Bone by Toni Adeyemi
Assassination of Brangwain Spurge by M.T. Anderson, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin
Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier
Pet by Akwaeke Emezi
(+ Black Wings Beating by Alex London
(+ Fireborne by Rosaria Munda
The Insiders by Mark Oshiro
Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls by Kaela Rivera
Root Magic by Eden Royce
Children of the Quicksands by Efua Traore

**Science Fiction**
Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic by Armand Baltazar
The Extraordinary Colors of Auden Dare by Zillah Bethell
(+ Last Day on Mars by Kevin Emerson
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera
Last Gate of the Emperor by Kwame Mbala and Prince Joel Makonnen
Flood City by Daniel Jose Older
(+ Bloom by Kenneth Oppel
Maximillian Fly by Angie Sage
(+ Scythe by Neil Shusterman