

Friends Academy
2018 Middle School Summer Reading List
for students entering
7th Grade

Challenge One

Students entering seventh grade are required to read both of the following titles:

Budhos, Marina Tamar. *Ask Me No Questions*. Realistic Fiction
Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Yousafzai, Malala, and Patricia McCormick. *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Reader's Edition)*.

In this young reader's edition of Yousafzai's best-selling memoir, the Nobel Peace Prize winner retells her experiences at home and at school and discusses the impact of the Taliban presence in Pakistan. Her strong voice and ideals come across on every page, emphasizing how her surroundings and supportive family helped her become the relevant figure she is today. Yousafzai highlights the importance of school and how it was the only space where she felt empowered. Although at times the transitions between personal accounts and historical background feel abrupt, Yousafzai effectively summarizes her story and her advocacy for girls' education, peace, and human rights. Above all, she stresses that she doesn't want to be known as the girl shot by the Taliban but rather as a young person who actively fought for education.

Challenge Two

Students entering seventh grade are also required to read one book from the following list:

Balliett, Blue. *Hold Fast*. Mystery
Where is Early's father? He's not the kind of father who would disappear. But he's gone and he's left a whole lot of trouble behind. As danger closes in, Early, her mom, and her brother have to flee their apartment. With nowhere else to go, they are forced to move into a city shelter. Once there, Early starts asking questions and looking for answers. Because her father hasn't disappeared without a trace. There are patterns and rhythms to what's happened, and Early might be the only one who can use them to track him down and make her way out of a very tough place.

Barnhill, Kelly. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*.

Fantasy

2017 Newbery Medal winner

Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Deadly birds with uncertain intentions flock nearby. A volcano, quiet for centuries, rumbles just beneath the earth's surface. And the woman with the Tiger's heart is on the prowl . . .

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Game*.

Science Fiction

Ender Wiggin is the hero of this science fiction novel in which military geniuses are bred to save the world against alien attacks.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*.

Historical Fiction

2005 Newbery Honor Book. In 1935, Moose Flanagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his father can work as a prison guard and his autistic sister can attend a special school in San Francisco. Moose befriends the warden's daughter and learns to cope with this awkward situation.

Feinstein, John. Sports mysteries series.

Mystery (Sports)

In John Feinstein's series, sports and mystery are intertwined. Follow reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson as they go behind the scenes and cover stories about baseball, football, basketball, tennis, and swimming.

Change Up: Mystery at the World Series

Cover Up: Mystery at the Super Bowl

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery

The Rivalry: Mystery at the Army-Navy Game

Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open

Gibbs, Stuart. *FunJungle*.

Mystery

When Teddy Fitzroy moved into FunJungle, the nation's largest zoo, with his scientist parents, he expected things to be kind of quiet. There'd be the occasional elephant stampede and water balloon fight with the chimpanzees, of course, but when Henry the Hippo dies from not-so-natural causes, Teddy suspects foul play. And that was just the beginning. He begins to realize that the zoo is far more exciting than he thought it was, and soon the mysteries at FunJungle are piling up...

Book 1: *Belly Up*
Book 2: *Poached*
Book 3: *Big Game*

Graff, Lisa. *Lost in the Sun*. Realistic Fiction
Everyone says that middle school is awful, but Trent knows nothing could be worse than the year he had in fifth grade, when a freak accident on Cedar Lake left one kid dead, and Trent with a brain full of terrible thoughts he can't get rid of. Trent's pretty positive the entire disaster was his fault, so for him middle school feels like a fresh start, a chance to prove to everyone that he's not the horrible screw-up they seem to think he is.

Lai, Thanhha. *Listen, Slowly*. Realistic Fiction
A California girl born and raised, Mai can't wait to spend her vacation at the beach. Instead, she has to travel to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the Vietnam War. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture. But to Mai, those are their roots, not her own. Vietnam is hot, smelly, and the last place she wants to be. Besides barely speaking the language, she doesn't know the geography, the local customs, or even her distant relatives. To survive her trip, Mai must find a balance between her two completely different worlds.

Lupica, Mike. *The Big Field*. Sports
Playing shortstop is a way of life for Hutch --- not only is his hero, Derek Jeter, a shortstop, but so was his father, a former local legend turned pro. Which is why having to play second base feels like demotion to second team. Yet that's where Hutch ends up after Darryl "D-Will" Williams, the best shortstop prospect since A-Rod, joins the team. But Hutch is nothing if not a team player, and he's cool with playing in D-Will's shadow --- until, that is, the two shortstops in Hutch's life betray him in a way he never could have imagined.

Sperry, Armstrong. *Call it Courage*. Classic/Newberry Medal
Mafatu's name means "Stout Heart," but his people call him a coward. Ever since the sea took his mother's life and spared his own, he has lived with deep fear. And even though his father is the Great Chief of Hikuera--an island whose seafaring people worship courage--he is terrified, and consequently, he is severely scorned. By the time he is twelve years old, Mafatu can bear it no longer. He must conquer his fear alone...even if it means certain death.

Wolk, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow*. Historic Fiction
Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and while her bullying seems isolated at first, things quickly escalate, and reclusive World War I

veteran Toby becomes a target of her attacks. While others have always seen Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. She will soon need to find the courage to stand as a lone voice of justice as tensions mount.