MUS 7th-Grade Summer Reading List

Rising 7th graders should read three books over the summer. On his honor a student should choose books that he has not already read. Students will be tested on all three books during the first week of school.

One required:
A man’s body found on the moors. An old legend. The footprints of a gigantic hound. Sherlock Holmes takes the case.

Choose two:
A serf in 14th-century England, 13-year-old Crispin is feeling more powerless than ever after his mother’s death, especially since he’s been charged with a crime he did not commit. His punishment? Death. So Crispin runs for his life, and his journey answers questions about his unknown father as he attempts to outwit his pursuers.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor. Fiction.
New town, new house, new school. Paul Fisher is determined to be positive about his family’s move, and he starts making friends, even tries out for the middle-school soccer team. Not everything about his new life in Tangerine, Florida, will go smoothly, though, and Paul will make some important and unexpected discoveries about his new friends, his family, and himself.

Peril at End House by Agatha Christie. Mystery.
Someone is trying to kill Miss Nick Buckley, the flighty young owner of End House, a “tumbledown old place” on a point in an English seaside town. Fortunately, Detective Hercule Poirot happens to be vacationing nearby.

Once a year the Capitol of Panem demands that each of its districts sacrifice one boy and one girl to the Hunger Games, in which the adolescents must battle to the death for the entertainment of the nation.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis. Fiction.
The “Weird Watson” family is driving from their home in Michigan to visit a relative in Birmingham, Alabama. During their car ride, the Watsons face the injustices and violence of the South in the early 1960’s. Though the characters must confront some serious realities, their voices are lively, and their story is filled with humor and love.

Thomas and the other teenaged boys have no idea who they are or why they’ve been delivered one by one to the Glade, but they suspect that the only way out is through the Maze.

“There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife.” Thus begins the story of Nobody Owens who is growing up in a graveyard, raised by the dead.

Far North by Will Hobbs. Adventure Novel.
Stranded in the Northwest Territories of Canada, 15-year-old Gabe Rogers and two companions must physically survive not only the sub-arctic temperatures but also the constant threat of starvation. The challenges of mental survival, though, are sometimes just as difficult: Will they
ever be rescued?

**Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice** by Phillip Hoose. *Non-fiction.*
Months before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, 15-year-old Claudette Colvin challenged the same law on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Memphis Leaders selection.

**The Magician’s Nephew** by C.S. Lewis. *Fantasy.* First in a series.
Set 1,000 years before Lucy crawls through a wardrobe and meets Mr. Tumnus by a lamppost in the snow, this book is the prequel to the Narnia series.

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio. *Fiction.*
“My name is August . . . I won’t describe what I look like. Whatever you’re thinking, it’s probably worse.” And so begins the story of August’s first year in middle school.

**The Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan. *Fantasy.* First in a series.
Meet Percy Jackson, an unlikely hero, yet a hero, he discovers, nevertheless. His tasks are great – returning Zeus’s stolen thunderbolt among them – and his journey is long, taking him from the heights of Mount Olympus (above New York City) to the depths of the Underworld (beneath Los Angeles). But Percy’s got courage, heart, and some new friends to help him on his quest.

Set in an alternate-world London in which magicians are the ruling class, this novel follows the adventures of Nathaniel, a young, up-and-coming magician, and Bartimaeus, the ancient (and sarcastic) djinni summoned to help him steal a great treasure, the Amulet of Samarkand.