

**Tantasqua Regional Junior High School Summer Reading List  
2009**

**Grade 7**

**Discussion Title – Tangerine - Edward Bloor (See description below.) ALL seventh grade students must read this book.**

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| <u>Belle Prater's Boy</u> –<br>Ruth White             | When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives. |
| <u>Crash</u> –<br>Jerry Spinelli                      | The story of a seventh grade football sensation in his humorous, and touching journey through seventh grade.   |
| <u>Farewell to Manzanar</u> –<br>Jeanne W. Houston    | The true story of one Japanese American family and their attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention during World War II.   |
| <u>The Golden Compass</u> –<br>Philip Pullman         | Lyra, age 11, must travel north to fulfill her destiny of saving her people. Fantasy with armored bears, and the value of friendship and love.   |
| <u>Great Expectations</u> –<br>Charles Dickens        | Suspenseful story of Pip as he searches for his true benefactor. This book is suggested for advanced readers.  |
| <u>The Hobbit</u> -<br>J.R.R. Tolkien                 | The delightful fantasy set in Middle Earth peopled by charming dwarf-like creatures called hobbits.  |
| <u>The House on Mango Street</u> - Sandra<br>Cisneros | Realistic portrayal of Hispanic culture in an urban area of the United States.   |
| <u>The Island</u> –<br>Gary Paulsen                   | 15-year-old Wil discovers himself and the wonders of nature on an island in northern Wisconsin.  |
| <u>The Lilies of the Field</u> – W. Barrett           | A group of nuns hold an impossible dream – Homer Smith, a black ex-GI, sets out to make this dream a reality.  |
| <u>Lily's Crossing</u> –<br>Patricia Giff             | A young girl learns that World War II is bound to change everyone, even the Americans who never leave home.  |

<u>Little Women</u> – Louisa May Alcott	Beloved story of the four March girls, Jo, Beth, Amy, and Meg, as they grow up.
<u>A Long Way From Chicago</u> - Richard Peck	A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother
<u>Pictures of Hollis Woods</u> - Patricia Reilly Giff	A troublesome 12-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.
<u>The Prince and the Pauper</u> – Mark Twain	An interesting story of two young boys who switched their identities and their lifestyles.
<u>Riding the Flume</u> - Patricia Pfitsch	In 1894, 15-year-old Francie determines to fight the lumbermen and protect the largest sequoia tree ever seen, which had been given to her sister just before her death six years earlier.
<u>The Secret Garden</u> – Frances H. Burnett	Mary befriends the invalid son of the manor and together they investigate the mysteries of the secret garden.
<u>Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World</u> - Jennifer Armstrong	This is the extraordinary and harrowing true story of Shackleton and the crew of the Endurance. This is the story of their attempt to cross the frozen Antarctic continent from one side to the other and all the adventures they encountered.
<u>+Tangerine</u> – Edward Bloor <b>(Discussion Title)</b>	Paul Fisher is an adolescent faced with challenges of adjusting to a new school, making new friends, and confronting the horrible truth about his family.
<u>Three Cups of Tea</u> Young Reader’s Ed.)- Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin	This young-reader’s edition of the New York Times best-seller for adults presents an abbreviated, simplified account of Mortenson’s life-saving mountain rescue by Pakistani villagers that inspired his life’s work: building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
<u>Travel Team</u> – Mike Lupica	After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.
<u>Treasure Island</u> – Robert Louis Stevenson	A thrilling story of buried treasure, piracy, and adventure in days past.
<u>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</u> – Jules Verne	An embittered genius takes refuge from humanity aboard his fantastic submarine, the Nautilus.

When Zachary Beaver  
Came to Town-  
Kimberly Willis Holt      Set during the Vietnam War, Cal and Todd befriend Zachary,  
“the fattest boy in the world,” after he is abandoned in their  
small Texas town.

Where the Lilies Bloom – A spunky 14-year-old girl holds her orphaned family together  
Vera and Bill Cleaver      after the death of their father.

**\*\*\*Additional Titles – You must have permission from your English teacher to read these titles.**

\*Crash –                      The story of a seventh grade football sensation in his  
Jerry Spinelli                      humorous, and touching journey through seventh grade.

\*Yolanda’s Genius –      Although her brother can’t read, Yolanda tries to prove to her  
Carol Fenner                      mother and the world, that her brother is a prodigy.

\*Audio books on these titles are available at the school.

+Indicates discussion title.

**Note: Abridged versions are not acceptable.**

**Tantasqua Regional Junior High School Summer Reading List  
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**Grade 8**

**Discussion Title – Dr. Franklin’s Island – Ann Halam (See description below.) ALL eighth grade students must read this book.**

Anne Frank: the Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank Famous diary of a young Jewish girl hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II.

Anne of Green Gables – L.M. Montgomery Eleven-year-old Anne Shirley wins the heart of her foster mother in this first novel of the Anne series.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman – Ernest Gaines The story of a remarkable woman’s struggle against prejudice from the Civil War through the 1960s.

The Black Stallion – Walter Farley Story of the wildest of all wild creatures – an untamed stallion.

The Contender – Robert Lipsyte This novel tells the story of a young man’s struggle to grow up in Harlem and become a fighter.

Death Be Not Proud – John Gunther The true story of a teenager’s heroic battle against cancer.

+Dr. Franklin’s Island – Ann Halam  
**(Discussion Title)** As the three survivors of a plane crash on their way to the rain forest s of Ecuador, semi, Miranda, and Arnie believe they are the only people on the island, yet they soon discover they are not as Dr. Franklin, a genetic engineer reveals himself and his twisted plans.

Elsewhere - Gabrielle Zevin This young adult novel is a tender, funny, and thought-provoking story about first love and seeing death as the other half of life. Liz discovers a place so like Earth, but also completely different.

Fantastic Voyage – Isaac Asimov Four men and a woman, reduced to microscopic size, enter a man’s bloodstream to remove a blood clot.

Gulliver’s Travels – Jonathan Swift Generations learn the failings of man from his travel story to fantastic lands.

<u>Illustrated Man</u> – Ray Bradbury	Stories that blend weird fantasy and chilling truth involving time and space.
<u>A Man Without A Country</u> – Edward Hale	“Damn the United States! I wish I never hear of the United States again!” Philip Nolan’s wish was his sentence.
<u>Maximum Ride</u> <u>The Angel Experiment</u> – James Patterson	A group of genetically enhanced kids who can fly and have other unique talents are on the run from part-human, part-wolf predators called Erasers in this exciting science fiction thriller.
<u>The Moves Make the Man</u> – Bruce Brooks	A black boy and an emotionally troubled white boy in North Carolina form a precarious friendship. The bond that holds them together? Basketball.
<u>Oliver Twist</u> – Charles Dickens	The moving tale of an orphan who must make his way through the horrors of London’s sinister underworld.
<u>Olive’s Ocean</u> – Kevin Henkes	On a summer visit to her grandmother’s cottage by the ocean, Martha gains perspective about her life.
<u>The Outcasts of Poker Flat</u> – Bret Harte	Realistic portraits of Americans and immigrants in the California Sierra.
<u>Rascal</u> – Sterling North	Story of a ring-tailed raccoon and his eleven-year-old friend.
<u>Rebecca</u> – Daphne DuMaurier	Story of a young bride haunted by the ghost of her husband’s first wife.
<u>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</u> – Mildred Taylor	A southern black family is determined to maintain their pride and independence against hard times and racial inequality.
<u>Shane</u> – Jack Schaefer	Set in the Old West, the story of a gunman’s struggle to escape his past by living with a normal, loving family.
<u>Shoeless Joe</u> – W.P. Kinsella	The story of Ray, an insurance man turned Iowa farmer – a baseball fanatic who builds his “Field of Dreams.”
<u>Souder</u> – William Armstrong	A heart-wrenching story of a black family in the South.
<u>The 39 Clues – The Maze of Bones</u> – Rick Riordan	Grace Cahill, matriarch of the world’s most powerful family, dies and leaves behind a challenge to her descendants. They can either inherit one million dollars, or forgo the money and receive the first of 39 clues that will lead them on an around-the-world adventure.

Three Cups of Tea -  
Greg Mortenson

The astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his humanitarian campaign to use education to combat terrorism in the Taliban's backyard.

White Fang -  
Jack London

Story of the taming of a wild wolf dog through the patience and devotion of one man.

The Witch of Blackbird  
Pond – Elizabeth  
George Speare

When Kit's friendship with an old woman is discovered, she is accused of witchcraft.

The Wind Singer-  
William Nicholson

Relegated to the lowest levels of society after a schoolroom rebellion, Kestral Hath and her twin brother seek to recover the wind singer from the evil spirit lord.

Witness –  
Karen Hesse

The year is 1924, and a small town in Vermont is falling under the influence of the Ku Klux Klan, two girls find themselves among those who are no longer welcome.

The Yearling – Marjorie  
Rawlings

Jody Baxter, living in the Florida backwoods with his pet fawn, experiences the joys and pains of growing up.

**\*\*\*Additional Titles – You must have permission from your English teacher to read these titles.**

\*Absolutely Normal  
Chaos – Sharon Creech

A journal kept by thirteen-year-old Mary Lou starts as a boring school project, but becomes a record of the most exciting summer of her life – so exciting that Mary Lou begs her teacher not to read it!

Seedfolks –Paul  
Fleischman

An urban neighborhood is transformed when a young Vietnamese girl begins a garden in an abandoned lot. Soon people from all backgrounds join to turn the littered lot into a garden for the whole community.

Summer Reading  
is Killing Me! –  
Jon Scieszka

Three boys are transported to a universe where well known characters from children's books run amok.

\*The Upstairs Room –  
Johanna Reiss

Johanna Reiss shares her own experiences as a young girl hiding from the Nazis when the Germans take over Holland. For two long years, she hides with her sister in a cramped farmhouse room.

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