

# Rye Middle School Seventh Grade Summer Reading

June 2020

Dear Rye Middle School Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome to the seventh grade! To celebrate the power of literature and to create a stronger middle school community, we are encouraging all students who are entering the seventh grade to read at least two books over the summer. When we return to school in September, we will take the opportunity to discuss the selected titles. It is the goal of seventh grade teachers to emphasize good literature and create an atmosphere that will foster lifelong reading.

Students entering Grade 7 may select their own literature for their summer reading. Books may be from any genre (fiction, non-fiction, biography, fantasy, etc.) and may include graphic novels and other forms of multi-sensory literature. We encourage students to select literature that is **at or above their reading level**. In addition, the books should not be texts that have been read before, or texts that have been made into movies.

We encourage the guidance of a parent or other adult family member in the selection of the summer reading novels. If students are uncertain about which books to choose, please look at the titles on the following pages that have been suggested by 7th grade students and our Media Center Specialist, Mr. Dann Kenefick. The Rye Free Reading Room is also an excellent resource for book suggestions, lists of award-winning books, and exciting summer reading programs and prizes. Students can log their reading on the library's READsquared app to earn prizes and share book reviews. Visit the website for help borrowing e-books too. [Click here](#) for access to their summer reading website.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's current language arts teacher or any of us. We wish you a summer of happy reading!

Grade 7 Language Arts teachers:

April Colarusso

Peter Gouveia

John O'Donnell

### Missing Piece of Charlie O'Reilly by Rebecca Ansari

Charlie O'Reilly is an only child, which is why it makes everyone uncomfortable when he talks about his brother. Liam was his eight-year-old kid brother, who, up until a year ago, slept in the bunk above Charlie, took pride in being as annoying as possible, and was the only person who could make Charlie laugh until it hurt. Then came the morning when the bunk, and Liam, disappeared forever. No one even remembers him---not Charlie's mother, who has been battling depression, and not Charlie's father, who is gone frequently on business trips. The only person who believes Charlie is his best friend, Ana. Even if she has no memory of Liam, she is as determined as Charlie is to figure out what happened to him.

### El Deafo by Cece Bell

In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful and very awkward hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear (including some things she wasn't intended to hear), but it also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." More importantly, Cece declares a place for herself in the world and finds the friend she's longed for. This is a great book for students interested in American Sign Language!

### The Wolf Keepers by Elise Broach

Twelve-year-old Lizzie Durango and her dad have always had a zoo to call their home. Lizzie spends her days watching the animals and taking note of their various behaviors. Though the zoo makes for a unique home, it's a hard place for Lizzie to make lasting friends. But all this changes one afternoon when she finds Tyler Briggs, a runaway who has secretly made the zoo his makeshift home. The two become friends and, just as quickly, stumble into a covert investigation involving the zoo wolves who are suddenly dying. Little do they know, this mystery will draw them into a high-stakes historical adventure involving the legend of John Muir as they try to navigate safely while lost in Yosemite National Park.

### Tell Me Three Things by Julia Buxbaum

Jessie's life has been turned upside-down. Two years after her mother's death, Jessie is forced to move from Chicago to Los Angeles to live with her "stepmonster" and her pretentious teenage son when her father elopes with a woman he met online. Jessie soon gets an email from someone who has signed it "Somebody/Nobody" (SN for short), offering to help her navigate the wilds of Wood Valley High School. Is the email an elaborate hoax, or can she rely on SN for some much-needed help? In a leap of faith—or an act of complete desperation—Jessie begins to rely on SN, who quickly becomes her lifeline and closest ally. Jessie can't help wanting to meet SN in person. But are some mysteries better left unsolved?

### The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor

From the critically acclaimed author of *Waiting for Normal* and *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*, Leslie Connor, comes a deeply poignant and beautifully crafted story about self-reliance,

redemption, and hope. Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason can't understand why police won't believe the story he has told about that day. He's desperate to figure out what happened.

### Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eager

The summer before seventh grade, Carolina (she now calls herself Carol) can't believe her bad luck. Instead of hanging with her friends in Albuquerque, Carol moves with her family to the New Mexico desert to help her paternal grandfather, Serge, whom she's never met. Serge suffers from dementia and thinks "Caro-leeen-a" needs to learn about her roots. He tells her the local drought is because of the lack of bees, but Carol hears buzzing and spots bees. While her parents prepare to sell Serge's sheep ranch and her older sister, Alta, complains, Carol bonds with Serge over his fairy tales about Sergio and Rosa's centuries-old love story sustained by a magical life-giving tree. Serge and Carolina's story is a touching reminder to "squeeze the juice out of every day" and remember where (and who) you call home.

### Eventown by Corey Ann Haydu

The world tilted for Elodee this year, and now it's impossible for her to be the same as she was before. Not when her feelings have such a strong grip on her heart. Not when she and her twin sister, Naomi, seem to be drifting apart. So when Elodee's mom gets a new job in Eventown, moving seems like it might just fix everything. Indeed, life in Eventown is comforting and exciting all at once. Their kitchen comes with a box of recipes for Elodee to try. Everyone takes the scenic way to school or work—past rows of rose bushes and unexpected waterfalls. On blueberry-picking field trips, every berry is perfectly ripe. Sure, there are a few odd rules, and the houses all look exactly alike, but it's easy enough to explain—until Elodee realizes that there are only three ice cream flavors in Eventown (ever!) and they play only one song in music class. Everything may be "even" in Eventown, but is there a price to pay for perfection—and pretending? (Please note: there is a very oblique reference to suicide)

### Lone Stars by Mike Lupica

Clay is a quarterback's dream. When he zips across the field, arms outstretched, waiting for the ball to sail into his hands, there's no denying him the catch. Like most Texans, Clay is never more at home than when playing football. And his coach, a former star player for the Dallas Cowboys, is just like a second father. But as the football season kicks off, Clay begins to notice some odd behavior from his coach—lapses in his memory and strange mood swings. The conclusion is painful, but obvious: Coach Cooper is showing side effects of the many concussions he sustained during his playing days. As Clay's season wears on, it becomes clear that the real victory will be to help his coach walk onto that famous star logo in the middle of Cowboys Field one last time—during a Thanksgiving day ceremony honoring him and his former Super Bowl-winning teammates.

### Double Digit by Annabel Monaghan (Rye resident!)

This is the popular sequel to A Girl Named Digit. To say eighteen-year-old Farrah Higgins—or Digit—is good at math is a laughable understatement. She's been cracking codes since childhood and is finally at home with "her people" at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her talents are so off the charts that her laptop is under surveillance by both the CIA and an eco-terrorist named Jonas Furnis. When Digit thoughtlessly hacks into the Department of Defense's database, she lands in serious hot water

inside and outside the law. Readers will be sad to turn the last page of this suspenseful, sassy, super smart thriller.

First: Sandra Day O'Connor by Evan Thomas

She was born in 1930 in El Paso and grew up on a cattle ranch in Arizona. At a time when women were expected to be homemakers, she set her sights on Stanford University. When she graduated near the top of her law school class in 1952, no firm would even interview her. But Sandra Day O'Connor's story is that of a woman who repeatedly shattered glass ceilings—doing so with a blend of grace, wisdom, humor, understatement, and cowgirl toughness. She became the first ever female majority leader of a state senate. As a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals, she stood up to corrupt lawyers and humanized the law. When she arrived at the United States Supreme Court, appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, she began a quarter-century tenure on the Court, hearing cases that ultimately shaped American law. Diagnosed with cancer at fifty-eight, and caring for a husband with Alzheimer's, O'Connor endured every difficulty with grit and poise. This is a remarkably vivid and personal portrait of a woman who loved her family, who believed in serving her country, and who, when she became the most powerful woman in America, built a bridge forward for all women.

Night Music by Jenn Marie Thorne

Ruby has always been Ruby *Chertok*: future classical pianist and daughter of renowned composer Martin Chertok. But after her horrendous audition for the prestigious music school where her father is on faculty, it's clear that music has publicly dumped her. Now Ruby is suddenly just . . . Ruby. And who is that again? All she knows is that she wants away from the world of classical music for good. Oscar is a wunderkind, a musical genius. Just ask any of the 1.8 million people who've watched him conduct on YouTube—or hey, just ask Oscar. But while he might be the type who'd name *himself* when asked about his favorite composer and somehow make you love him more for it, Oscar is *not* the type to jeopardize his chance to study under the great Martin Chertok—not for a crush. He's all too aware of how the ultra-privileged world of classical music might interpret a black guy like him falling for his benefactor's white daughter. But as the New York City summer heats up, so does the spark between Ruby and Oscar. Soon their connection crackles with the same alive, uncontrollable energy as the city itself. Can two people still figuring themselves out figure out how to be together? Or will the world make the choice for them?

Enemy Child by Andrea Warren

This biography of Norman Minet tells his story from his internment as a child at the Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming during World War II where 10-year-old Norm and his family live in one room in a tar paper barracks with no running water. There are lines for the communal bathroom and lines for the mess hall, and they live behind barbed wire and under the scrutiny of armed guards in watchtowers. The story takes the reader through Minet's political career including his ten terms serving in Congress. During his tenure, Minet was instrumental in getting the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 passed, which provided reparations and an apology to those who were interned.