

**St. Ursula School**  
**English/Language Arts**  
**Summer Reading - 2026**  
**Entering 7th Grade**

**Tested Book:** *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton

All students are required to read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. They will be tested on the book on Thursday, September 3.

**Summer Reading Project/Written Summary List:** Students are to choose a book from the list below to read over the summer, and they are to complete the attached story map/graphic organizer with detailed information. Complete sentences are not required. The story map will then be used to write an in school book summary during the first week the students return.

<b><i>Title of Book &amp; Author</i></b>	<b><i>Awards</i></b>	<b><i>Fountas &amp; Pinnell Reading Level</i></b>	<b><i>Lexile Level</i></b>
<b><i>Dragonwings</i></b> By: Lawrence Yep	-ALA Newbery Honor, 1976 -IRA Children's Book Award -Boston Globe Horn Book Award Runner-up -Phoenix Award from Children's Literature Association, 1995 -Carter G. Woodson Book Award, 1976 -Mark Twain Award, 1978 - + more	W	870 L
<b><i>Homeless Bird</i></b> By: Gloria Whelan	-ALA Notable Children's Book, 2001 -National Book Award, 2000	X	800 L
<b><i>The Pearl</i></b> By: John Steinbeck		Z	1010 L
<b><i>Show Me A Sign</i></b> By: Ann Clare LeZotte	-NPR Best Book, 2020 -Schneider Family Book Award, 2021	Y	730 L

	-Kirkus Reviews Best Book, 2020 -School Library Journal Best Book, 2020 -New York Public Library Best Book, 2020 - +more		
<b><i>Ugly</i></b> By: Robert Hoge	-Barnes & Noble Children's Book Award	T	890 L
<b><i>Under the Blood Red Sun</i></b> By: Graham Salisbury	-The Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction -An ALA Best Book for Young Adults -An ALA Notable Book -A Booklist Children's Editors' Choice -The 1998 Hawaii Nene Award -A Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies	W	640 L
<b><i>The War that Saved My Life</i></b> By: Kimberly Prubaker Bradley	-ALA Newbery Medal, 2016 -Bank Street Children's Book Committee's Best Books of the Year -Josette Frank Award for Fiction	Z	580 L
<b><i>Woods Runner</i></b> By: Gary Paulsen	-Rhode Island Teen Book Award -Florida Sunshine State Award Nominee	X	870 L

## **Summaries: 7th grade summer books**

### **Dragonwings**

This is a work of historical fiction that combines Chinese folklore about dragons with real historical events such as Chinese immigration to California, the great earthquake of 1906, and the story of a father and son who want to fly a plane.

### **Homeless Bird**

This is the story of thirteen-year-old Koly, who's widowed when her husband by arranged marriage dies. Her mother-in-law abandons her in a city of widows, but Koly never loses hope.

She finds love again with Raji, a rickshaw driver who helps her find housing and work.

### **The Pearl**

This is a parable about a Mexican Indian pearl diver named Kino who finds a valuable pearl and is transformed by the evil it attracts. Kino sees the pearl as his opportunity for a better life. When the townsfolk of La Paz learn of Kino's find, he is immediately set upon by a greedy priest, a doctor, and businessmen.

### **Show Me A Sign**

Set in 1805, LeZotte's engrossing historical novel explores prejudice and racism through the eyes of 11-year-old Mary Lambert, who is deaf. Following her older brother's death, Mary lives with her parents in a close-knit Martha's Vineyard town made up of both English and Wampanoag members. Mary awakens to the fact that most of the deaf population outside of Martha's Vineyard are treated as less than fully human, and she becomes desperate to find a way to communicate and get help.

### **Ugly**

When Robert Hoge was born, he had a tumor the size of a tennis ball in the middle of his face and short, twisted legs. Surgeons removed the tumor and made him a new nose from one of his toes. Amazingly, he survived—with a face that would never be the same.

Strangers stared at him, kids called him names, and adults could be cruel in their own ways. Everybody seemed to agree that Robert was "ugly." But Robert refused to let his face dictate his entire life. Then, when Robert came face to face with the biggest decision of his life, he followed his heart. This poignant memoir about overcoming bullying and thriving with disabilities shows that what makes us "ugly" also makes us who we are.

### **Under the Blood Red Sun**

All that eighth-grader Tomi Nakaji really cares about is winning his baseball games with his team, the Rats. However, when Japan bombs Pearl Harbor just kilometers from his home, Tomi's priorities immediately change. He now has to worry for his own safety from angry locals, as well as his family's safety from the new internment camps popping up all over the island as a prison for Japanese citizens. Lucky for him, his best friend, Billy, is there for him every step of the way.

### **The War that Saved My Life**

This #1 *New York Times* bestseller is an exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II. Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall

back into the cruel hands of their mother?

**Woods Runner**

Samuel, 13, spends his days in the forest, hunting for food for his family. He has grown up on the frontier of a British colony, America. Far from any town, or news of the war against the King that American patriots have begun near Boston. But the war comes to them. British soldiers and Iroquois attack. Samuel's parents are taken away, prisoners. Samuel follows, hiding, moving silently, determined to find a way to rescue them. Each day, he confronts the enemy, and the tragedy and horror of this war. But, he also discovers allies, men and women working secretly for the patriot cause. And, he learns that he must go deep into enemy territory to find his parents: all the way to the British headquarters, New York City.

Grade	College & Career Ready "Stretch" Lexile Bands
1	190L to 530L
2	420L to 650L
3	520L to 820L
4	740L to 940L
5	830L to 1010L
6	925L to 1070L
7	970L to 1120L
8	1010L to 1185L
9	1050L to 1260L
10	1080L to 1335L
11 and 12	1185L to 1385L

Common Core "Stretch" Text Measures	
Grade	2012 Common Core "Stretch" Text Measures
1	190L to 530L
2	420L to 650L
3	520L to 820L
4	740L to 940L
5	830L to 1010L
6	925L to 1070L
7	970L to 1120L
8	1010L to 1185L
9	1050L to 1260L
10	1080L to 1335L
11 & 12	1185L to 1385L