

7th and 8th Grade Summer Reading for English Language Arts

7th Grade- The first quarter theme in Literature is Generations: What can one generation learn from another? The following titles provide students with another perspective on the topic of generations, touching on many of the ideas found within the first quarter theme.

Choose one of the following:

Stand Tall by Joan Bauer

Tree is the tallest person in his school, and he doesn't fit in. Throughout the book, Tree finds others that do not feel like they fit in-his disabled grandfather, and the new girl Sophie. By helping others, he makes a place to belong

Fair Weather by Richard Peck

After a surprise invitation, Rosie and her family travel from their small farm to the big city for the 1893 World's Fair. The event opens their eyes to how fast the world and each of their lives are changing.

Ribbons by Laurence Yipp

Robin Lee loves ballet. However, after her grandmother comes from Hong Kong to live with the family, the cost of taking care of her means they can no longer afford Robin's ballet lessons. Robin and her grandmother do not get along at first, but they come to understand how much they have in common.

8th Grade- The first quarter theme in Literature is Rites of Passage: What are some milestones on the path of growing up? The following titles provide students with another perspective on the topic of rites of passage, touching on many of the ideas found within the first quarter theme.

Choose one of the following:

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque

In this classic novel, Paul and his friends enlist in the army. They face more than they expected as they fight battles during WW1. Paul and his comrades become thoroughly disillusioned with the notions of war's glory, and they come to accept the role of random chances in their lives.

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

This coming-of-age novel tells the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong -- not to her rundown neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her.

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer

Jenna Boller is the best employee at her branch of Gladstone's Shoes — she can sell anybody anything. But her family problems are harder to handle, and there are times when Jenna wishes she could just get out of town and take a break. So when Madeline Gladstone, the elderly president of Gladstone Shoe Stores, hires Jenna as her driver for the summer, Jenna leaps at the change — right into the driver's seat. And that begins a cross-country adventure from Chicago to Dallas, where she and Mrs. Gladstone learn a lot about the rules of the road...and the rules of life.