

7th Grade: ELA Summer Work

Mrs. Victoria's

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>GENRE</u>	<u>SYNOPSIS</u>	<u>READING DIFFICULTY</u>
The Willoughbys	Lois Lowry	Adventure	<i>The Willoughby's—Timothy; his twin brothers, Barnaby A and Barnaby B; and their little sister, Jane—are old-fashioned children who adore old-fashioned adventures. Unfortunately, the Willoughby parents are not very fond of their children, and the truth is that the siblings are not too keen on their parents either. Little do the Willoughby kids know that their neglectful mother and father are hatching an evil plan to get rid of them!</i>	EASY
Also Known As	Robin Benway	Adventure	<i>Maggie's grown up with her international spy parents and her skills as a sage-cracker are legendary. However, when there new assignment drops her in a New York high school, she's out of her comfort zone. Will falling for her mark blow her cover?</i>	HARD
What we Found in the Sofa & How it Saved the World	Henry Clark	Adventure /Humor	<i>Three best friends find an abandoned couch and find a rare zucchini colored crayon under the cushions. They list it on eBay and find themselves in a race to save the world.</i>	EASY
33 Minutes	Todd Hasak-Lowry	Bullying	<i>Sam's best friend status with Morgan changes when a new boy, Chris, shows up and middle school starts.</i>	EASY
Seeing Red	Kathryn Erskine	Bullying	<i>In 1972, after Red's daddy dies he finds out there are lots of injustices in his own town that need fixing but it's not easy to overcome rumors and bullies.</i>	MEDIUM

The Paper Cowboy	Kristen Levine	Bullying	<i>Tommy's life is going downhill and though he really wants to be a heroic cowboy, he's turning into more of a bully. He even falsely accuses a local store owner of being a communist. Can he figure what is the right thing to do?</i>	MEDIUM
A Single Shard	Linda Sue Park	Child Labor	<i>Tree-ear, a 13-year-old orphan, lives under a bridge in Ch'ulp'o, a potters' village famed for delicate celadon ware. He has become fascinated with the potter's craft; he wants nothing more than to watch master potter Min at work, and he dreams of making a pot of his own someday. When Min takes Tree-ear on as his helper, Tree-ear is elated — until he finds obstacles in his path.</i>	EASY
Shakespeare's Secret	Elise Broach	Hero	<i>Starting sixth grade at a new school is never easy, especially when your name is Hero. Named after a character in a Shakespeare play, Hero isn't at all interested in this literary connection. But when she's told by an eccentric neighbor that there might be a million dollar diamond hidden in her new house and that it could reveal something about Shakespeare's true identity, Hero is determined to live up to her name and uncover the mystery.</i>	EASY
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	Holocaust	<i>Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.</i>	HARD
The Devil's Arithmetic	Jane Yolen	Holocaust	<i>Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that's what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will</i>	MEDIUM

			<i>be mysteriously transported into the past . . . and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await.</i>	
The Red Pyramid	Rick Riordan	Mythology	<i>One night, Dr. Kane brings the siblings together for a "research experiment" at the British Museum, where he hopes to set things right for his family. Instead, he unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes him to oblivion and forces the children to flee for their lives. Soon, Sadie and Carter discover that the gods of Egypt are waking, and the worst of them -- Set has his sights on the Kanes.</i>	MEDIUM
The United States if Asgard Book One: The Lost Sun	Tessa Gratton	Mythology	<i>In an alternative US, Soren, with his berserker genes, and Astid a seer, are on a journey to find Baldor, the missing god whose disappearance is causing a panic.</i>	HARD HARD
Hero	Mike Lupica	Mythology (Hero)	<i>Zach Harriman knew that his dad was something of a hero, a man trusted by the president to solve international crises at a moment's notice. Suddenly people are telling him he has powers - people who know much more about his father than Zach ever did. One thing is clear: he can do things ordinary people cannot. Zach Harriman is his father's son. And he, too, is a hero.</i>	EASY
Fortunately, the Milk	Neil Gaiman	Science Fiction	<i>A crazy story unfolds after a father dashes out at breakfast to buy milk for his kids cereal and is abducted by aliens and on an odd adventure where the milk he has purchased plays a significant role.</i>	EASY
Pi in the Sky	Wendy Mass	Science Fiction	<i>After Annika accidentally spies the hidden realms that control the universe, Earth must be destroyed. It is up to Joss to save it.</i>	EASY
Infinity Ring: A Mutiny in Time	James Dashner	Science Fiction/ Time Travel	<i>History is broken, and three kids must travel back in time to set it right! When best friends Dak Smyth and Sera Froste stumble upon the secret of time travel -- a hand-held device known as the Infinity Ring --</i>	EASY

			<i>they're swept up in a centuries-long secret war for the fate of mankind.</i>	
Counting by 7's	Holly Sloan	Theme	<i>Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.</i>	EASY
Lily's Crossing	Patricia Reilly Giff	Theme	<i>When Lily meets Albert, a refugee from Hungary, during the summer of 1944, they begin a special friendship. However, Lily and Albert have both told lies, and Lily has told a lie that may cost Albert his life.</i>	EASY

Dear 7th grade student,

I hope you're enjoying your summer. Here are step-by-step instructions for your Theme Book Report. It is up to you if you want to put your letter (book report) in a Bottle, Treasure Chest, or Memory Box:

1. Choose a book from the summer reading list.
2. The main character had decided to send a message in a bottle/treasure chest/memory box to share and express what he or she has learned from his or her experiences to help others understand important life lessons. (story message/theme)

Materials needed

- * Message in a Bottle: plastic bottle (large; NO GLASS Bottles. Soda bottles work well)
- * Treasure Chest/Memory Box: cardboard box or shoe box
- * stickers, glitter glue, tissue paper, glue sticks or rubber cement
- * markers, colored pencils

3. Decorate the bottle or box with symbols that relate to the main character's message and to the theme of the story. For example, Annemarie Johansen in *Number the Stars* might put religious symbols of the courage and survival shown by herself, families and friends on the bottle. On the bottom (base) of the bottle, write your name, the book title and author's name.

4. You need to write a letter from the main character's point of view. The letter should express the main character's feelings about the life lessons (theme) he or she has learned throughout the course of the story. The letter needs to be 2-2½ pg's long, typed, size 12, font: Time New Romans, and line spacing: double. Make it EASY to get the letter out of your bottle or box—you and the teacher will both need to be able to remove it with ease.

5. If you would like to use a different design for your book report, please email me at svictoria@lccps.org for approval. You can also call me at (978) 852-2623. Looking forward to meeting you!

Thank you,

Mrs. Victoria

Sample Letter:

May 1945

To Whoever Finds This Bottle/Treasure Chest:

My name is Annemarie Johansen, and I am a twelve-year-old girl who lives in Copenhagen, Denmark. Today the war ended, and the Nazis who lives in Copenhagen, Denmark have been defeated. All over Denmark people are celebrating and bells are ringing. Finally, we are free!

In the last two years I have learned so much. Encountering the Nazi soldiers and their dogs taught me that real courage means facing your fears and moving through them to do what your heart tells you is right and just. Because the Danish people followed their hearts, we saved thousands of lives by hiding and transporting our Jewish friends to safety.

I've also learned how devastating and hideous war is. My heart ripped apart when a Nazi military car ran over my sister Lise. My friends as well as my family suffered grievously. My best friend Ellen Rosen and her parents had to leave their home and country just because they were Jewish. The Nazis were killing the Jews by the thousands, so we had to protect our friends by helping them escape. Then Lise's fiancé' Peter, who saved hundreds of Jews' lives, was captured and executed in the public square at Ryvangen. I wept for days and woke up screaming from nightmares in which I relived Peter's and Lise's tragic deaths. I pray for an end to man's inhumanity to man.

But even in the face of evil and horror that surrounds us, love and goodness prevailed because we acted with justice, compassion, courage, and conviction. Each of us listened to that still, small voice within us that guides us toward the light, and today the light conquered the darkness.

If you find this letter, read it to your friends and family. Pass it from house to house. Let people hear my message and create a world where peace, justice, and human kindness prevail.

Love,
Annemarie Johansen

