

SEVENTH GRADE

Bomb: the Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon Steve Sheinkin (Non Fiction)

A.R. 6.9 Lexile 920 In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

Born to Rock by Gordon Korman (realistic fiction)

AR: 5.3 Leo Caraway—high school senior, president of the Young Republicans Club, 4.0 GPA, future Harvard student—had his entire future perfectly planned out. That was, until the X factor. As in Marion X. McMurphy, aka King Maggot, the lead singer of Purge, the most popular, most destructive band punk rock has ever seen. He's also Leo's biological father.

Capture the Flag Kate Messner (Fiction)

A.R. 4.5 Lexile 700 Stranded in the D.C. airport in a snowstorm, three seventh-grade strangers meet. At first glance, Anna the reporter, Henry the gamer, and José the reader don't seem to have much in common. But all three attended a gala event at the Smithsonian the previous evening. And all are descended from historic American families who belong to a secret sleuthing society. When news comes through that the original "Star Spangled Banner" was stolen from the museum while they were there, the new friends deduce that the flag just might be trapped at the airport and set off to catch the culprit and restore the national treasure. Along the way, they encounter a comical variety of characters and ponder questions of immigration policy, campaign integrity, and national culture. With tidy detecting and earnest characterizations, this is a mystery that frolics more than it frightens. But the respectful integration of current events and the three heroes' thoughtful consideration of the cultural clues make the location of the flag just the beginning of the discoveries.

The City of Ember (series) by Jeanne DuPrau (Science Fiction)

AR: 5.0 The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race, but two hundred years later the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. It's up to Lina and Doon to decipher a hidden message before the lights go out on Ember forever.

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata (Historical Fiction)

AR: 4.9 An action-packed glimpse into the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a bomb sniffing German shepherd named Cracker and her handler, a young soldier.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi (mystery)

AR: 5.0 Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

The Day of the Pelican by Katherine Paterson (Fiction)

A.R. 5.2 Lexile 770 Meli Lleshi is positive that her drawing of her teacher with his pelican nose started it all. The Lleshis are Albanians living in Kosovo, a country trying to fight off Serbian oppressors, and suddenly they are homeless refugees. Old and young alike, they find their courage tested by hunger, illness, the long, arduous journey, and danger on every side. Then, unexpectedly, they are brought to America by a church group and begin a new life in a small Vermont town. The events of 9/11 bring more challenges for this Muslim family—but this country is their home now and there can be no turning back.

The Devil and His Boy by Anthony Horowitz (Adventure)

AR: 4.6 In 1593, thirteen-year old Tom travels through the English countryside to London, where he falls in with a troupe of actor and finds himself in great danger from several sources.

Irena Sendler and the Children of Warsaw Ghetto Susan G. Rubin (non-fiction)

AR: 5.9 Rubin and Farnsworth tell the story of Irena Sendler, a diminutive Polish social worker who helped spirit more than 400 children out of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. A.R. 5.9

Irena's Jars of Secrets Marcia K. Vaughn (non-fiction)

AR: 5.9 The illustrated biography of Irena Sendler, a Polish social worker who saved nearly 2500 Jewish children from the ghetto. She began by smuggling food, clothing and medicine into the ghetto; then turned to smuggling children out of the ghetto. Using false papers and creative means of escape, Irena risked her own life to rescue Jewish children and hide them safely in orphanages, convents and foster homes. Hoping to reunite families after the war, Irena kept secret lists of the children's identities, which were buried in jars under an apple tree.

Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By by Sharon Robinson (Non-Fiction)

AR: 7.3 This is an inspiring collection that pays tribute to baseball legend and civil rights hero Jackie Robinson.

Janie Face to Face by Caroline B. Cooney (Fiction)

A.R. 4.8 In this riveting and emotional conclusion to the thriller-romance Janie series, that started with *The Face on the Milk Carton*, all will be revealed as readers find out if Janie and Reeve's love has endured, and whether or not the person who brought Janie and her family so much emotional pain and suffering is brought to justice.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (series) by Jack Gantos (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 4.9 To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

The Landry News by Andrew Clements (realistic fiction)

AR: 6.0 A fifth-grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.

Marching For Freedom by Elizabeth Patridge (Non-Fiction)

AR: 6.6 This book recounts the three months of protest that took place before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s landmark march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to promote equal rights and help African-Americans earn the right to vote.

Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff by Jennifer L. Holm (realistic fiction)

AR: 4.7 Ginny has ten items on her big to-do list for seventh grade. None of them, however, include accidentally turning her hair pink. Or getting sent to detention for throwing frogs in class. Or losing the lead role in the ballet recital to her ex-best friend. Or the thousand other things that can go wrong between September and June. But it looks like it's shaping up to be that kind of a year! Here's the story of one girl's worst school year ever --told completely through her stuff.

The Misfits by James Howe (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 5.2 Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers (Realistic Fiction)

AR: 5.1 While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World
AR: 7.0 (Sy Montgomery) (Non-Fiction) **From the Publisher:** When Temple Grandin was born, her parents knew that she was different. Years later she was diagnosed with autism. While Temple's doctor recommended a hospital, her mother believed in her. Temple went to school instead. Today, Dr. Temple Grandin is a scientist and professor of animal science at Colorado State University. Her world-changing career revolutionized the livestock industry. As an advocate for autism, Temple uses her experience as an example of the unique contributions that autistic people can make.

The Road From Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl David Kherdian (Non-Fiction)
AR: 5.7 A biography of the author's mother, concentrating on her childhood in Turkey before the Turkish government deported its Armenian population.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements (Fantasy)
AR: 4.5 When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.

Thirteenth Child by Patricia Wrede (Fantasy)
AR: 6.0 Eighteen-year-old Eff must accept that her special training in Aphrikan magic and being the twin of the seventh son of a seventh son give her extraordinary power to combat magical creatures that threaten the western frontier.

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges (nonfiction/autobiography)
AR: 5.9 Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a 6-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960. An icon of the Civil Rights movement, Ruby chronicles each dramatic step of this pivotal event in history.

Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata (Fiction)
AR: 4.8 Lexile 750 Twelve-year-old Sumiko feels her life has been made up of two parts: before Pearl Harbor and after it. The good part and the bad part. Raised on a flower farm in California, Sumiko is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. Even when the other kids tease her, she always has had her flowers and family to go home to.

What My Mother Doesn't Know by Sonya Sones (Realistic Fiction, Poetry)
AR: 5.3 Sophie uses poems to describe her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

Women Explorers: Perils, Pistols and Petticoats Julie Cummins (Non-Fiction)
AR: 7.9 Meet ten inspiring women whose passions for exploration made them push the boundaries. Though most people have heard of explorers like Henry Hudson and Christopher Columbus, few have heard names like Nellie Cashman and Annie Smith Peck. Unfortunately, most of the brave women explorers have never made it into history books because they lived in times when it was taboo for women to go off on their own. Luckily, the daring women in this book didn't let those taboos slow them down as they climbed treacherous mountains, studied Aboriginal cultures, and lived with Pygmy tribes! With engaging text and bold illustrations, Women Explorers will finally properly introduce these adventurous women to the world.

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck (historical fiction)
AR: 4.5 Sequel to: A long way from Chicago. During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.