



Summer Term Reading List: Year 7

This term, Year 7 will be studying the theme of 'Our Place in the World' You will find a list of recommended books that you can choose from to read alongside this unit at home.

Where the Sky Lives by Margaret Dilloway When the private preserve adjacent to Zion National Park is sold, Tuesday's park archeologist mother tells her they're moving, and twelve-year-old Tuesday's search for closure may lead to unexpected answers. When life doesn't make sense, twelve-year-old amateur astronomer Tuesday Beals has always looked to the stars above Zion National Park, where she lives.

One day, a photo reveals clues of an endangered animal—one that could halt construction. Will the discovery be enough to save the park and keep the rest of her world from falling apart?

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell In the Pacific there is an island that looks like a big fish sunning itself in the sea. Around it, blue dolphins swim, otters play, and sea elephants and sea birds abound. Once, Indians also lived on the island. And when they left and sailed to the east, one young girl was left behind. This is the story of Karana, the Indian girl who lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins.

Asha & the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan Asha lives on the family farm with her mother in rural India. Her father is away working in the city, and when the money he sends stops suddenly, a wicked aunt arrives. She's determined to seize the property – and the treasure rumoured to be hidden on the land. Guided by a majestic bird which Asha believes to be the spirit of her grandmother, she and her best friend Jeevan embark on a journey to the city, across the Himalayas, to find her father and save her home.

The Missing Barbegazi by H.S. Norup Tessa discovers the healing power of wishes when she sets out to find a missing Barbegazi, said to live in the mountains near her village. Meeting one is only the beginning of an adventure that unites generations and teaches Tessa that trust is at the heart of the best relationships. A delightful story about families, love and learning that some secrets are best kept secret - forever.

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, gray English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu. *My Family and Other Animals* was intended to embrace the natural history of the island but ended up as a delightful account of Durrell's family's experiences, from the many eccentric hangers-on to the ceaseless procession of puppies, toads, scorpions, geckoes, ladybugs, glowworms, octopuses, bats, and butterflies into their home.

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the plane they're on crashes and the pilot dies upon landing. For days they survive alone, until Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret.

From the Mixed up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankenweiler by E.L Konigsburg Claudia Kincaid has been planning to run away from home for ages. Well, long enough to save up four dollars and eighteen cents. She has a whole list of reasons for running away, these include: "she had to both empty the dishwasher and set the table on the same night, while her brothers got out of it" and similar gripes. She decides to take one of her three brothers with her and chooses Jaimie because he is the richest. She decides to run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York because she thinks life will be more interesting there than in her dull home.

The Eagle of the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliff Set in Roman Britain this story is of a young Roman officer who sets out to discover the truth behind the mysterious disappearance of the Ninth Legion, who marched into the mists of Northern Britain and never returned.

Murder on the Safari Star by M. G. Leonard & Sam Sedgman. Harrison Beck and his Uncle Nat are on the journey of a lifetime aboard the Safari Star – a luxurious steam train that will take them from Pretoria to the stunning Victoria Falls. Close encounters with the amazing animals and landscape of Southern Africa are adventure enough, but things get mysterious when a passenger is found dead inside a locked compartment. Is it just a terrible accident or is something more suspicious afoot? It's up to train detective Hal and his new friend Winston to find out.

Monkey King: Journey to the West by Wu Ch'eng-en

A shape-shifting trickster on a kung-fu quest for eternal life, Monkey King is one of the most memorable superheroes in world literature. High-spirited and omni-talented, he can transform himself into whatever he chooses and turn each of his body's 84,000 hairs into an army of clones. But his penchant for mischief repeatedly gets him into trouble, and when he raids Heaven's Orchard of Immortal Peaches, the Buddha pins him beneath a mountain. Five hundred years later, Monkey King is finally given a chance to redeem himself: he must protect the pious monk Tripitaka on his journey in search of precious Buddhist sutras that will bring enlightenment to the Chinese empire.

Prisoners of Geography, Children's Ed.: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps by Tim Marshall. How did the USA become a superpower? Why do people go to war? And why are some countries rich while others are so poor? Find the answers to these questions and many more in this eye-opening book, which uses maps to explain how geography has shaped the history of our world. Discover how the choices of world leaders are swayed by mountains, rivers and seas - and why geography means that history is always repeating itself. This remarkable, unique introduction to world affairs will inspire curious minds everywhere.

The Strangeworlds Travel Agency by L.D. Lapinski. At the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, each suitcase transports you to a different world. All you have to do is step inside . . . When 12-year-old Flick Hudson accidentally ends up in the Strangeworlds Travel Agency, she uncovers a fantastic secret: there are hundreds of other worlds just steps away from ours. All you have to do to visit them is jump into the right suitcase. Then Flick gets the invitation of a lifetime: join Strangeworlds' magical travel society and explore other worlds.

Our Planet: The One Place We All Call Home by Matt Whyman, David Attenborough (Foreword), Richard Jones (Illustrations). The official children's book to the Netflix original documentary series, *Our Planet*, with a foreword by Sir David Attenborough. This glorious visual celebration of the natural world combines extraordinary photography from the series with stunning illustrations from acclaimed artist, Richard Jones. Lose yourself in icy landscapes, dense jungles and endless oceans. Learn how our fascinating habitats, and the plants and creatures living there, interconnect to create the one place we all call home – Our Planet.

Rebecca and the Strangest Garden on Earth by Imogen Daley. School is out for a mini half term break and Rebecca is away with her beloved Auntie Sue for what she thought would be a relaxing, quiet long weekend. Well, not quite. Rebecca's break from school was to be interrupted by new mystery friends, disasters averted and much more.. Rebecca soon learned the true meaning of 'hearing it on the grapevine' and 'gossips over the garden fence'. Before long, she too recognised the importance of 'green fingers'. Prepare to be charmed by Rebecca and the Strangest Garden on Earth. An excellent tale of supernatural friendships, survival and hope.

The Big Field: A Child's Year Under the Southern Cross by Anne Morddel Beautifully illustrated, this is the charming story of a girl who spends a year with her grandmother on a farm at the edge of the South American Atlantic Rainforest. The child is from the city, but the time she spends with her grandmother teaches her about the seasons of the Southern Hemisphere and the beauty and transience of the rainforest from the plant, animal, and insect life to the cycles of nature. Following them as they spend their days walking through the forest, lying on their backs under the trees, eating dinner outside, collecting seeds, and learning about the wildlife, this entertaining narrative is also environmentally sensitive in its approach. An illustrated, child-friendly glossary with sections dedicated to butterflies and moths, birds, bugs, and trees and plants concludes the book.

The Tree By Dana Lyons There is a river flowing near me, and I've watched that river change and grow. For eight hundred years I have lived here, through the wind, the fire, and the snow. This powerful song of an ancient Douglas fir celebrates the age-old cycle of life in the Pacific Rain Forest, revealing the interconnectedness of all things. From the gentle whisper of owls' wings to the haunting echo of a lone wolf 's cry, each scene resonates with the beauty and sacredness of nature. But when bulldozers invade the forest, the tree senses its impending destruction and asks, "Who will house the owl? And who will hold that river's shore? And who will take refuge in my shadow, if my shadow falls no more?"