

JFK SUMMER READING LIST 2017

Select **ONE** book from List A and **ONE** book from List B for your grade level.

Grade Sept. 2017	List A (To be assessed in English class)	List B (To be assessed in social studies class)
6th	<i>Things Not Seen</i> – Andrew Clements	<i>Lily’s Crossing</i> – Patricia Reilly Giff
	<i>Bystander</i> – James Preller	<i>Letters from Rifka</i> – Karen Hesse
	<i>Smile</i> - Raina Telgemeier	<i>Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos</i> – R. L. LaFevers
	<i>The River</i> – Gary Paulsen	<i>A Single Shard</i> – Linda Sue Park
7th	Shadow People series: <i>Among the Hidden</i> - Margaret Peterson Haddiz	<i>Forge</i> – Laura Halse Anderson
	<i>Lunch Money</i> – Andrew Clements	<i>Lyddie</i> – Katherine Patterson
	<i>Crossover</i> – Kwame Alexander	<i>The Fighting Ground</i> - Avi
	<i>Rain, Reign</i> – Ann M. Martin	<i>Soldier’s Heart</i> - Gary Paulsen
8th	<i>Red Kayak</i> – Priscilla Cummings	<i>Devil’s Arithmetic</i> – Jane Yolen
	<i>Heat</i> – Mike Lupica	<i>The Watson’s Go to Birmingham, 1963</i> – Christopher Paul Curtis
	<i>Fish in a Tree</i> – Lynda Mulally Hunt	<i>A Long Way from Chicago</i> – Richard Peck
	<i>The Raft</i> – S. A. Bodeen	<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> - Thanhha Lai

**** WILDCARD – May be substituted for any **List A** title for Grades 6-8: *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Madeleine*, *L’Engle*

**** WILDCARD – May be substituted for any **List B** title for Grades 6-8: *Revolution* by Deborah Wiles

Wildcard Selections

***Revolution* by Deborah Wiles.** It's 1964, and Sunny's town is being invaded. Or at least that's what the adults of Greenwood, Mississippi are saying. All Sunny knows is that people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. They're calling it Freedom Summer. Meanwhile, Sunny can't help but feel like her house is being invaded, too. She has a new stepmother, a new brother, and a new sister crowding her life, giving her little room to breathe. And things get even trickier when Sunny and her brother are caught sneaking into the local swimming pool — where they bump into a mystery boy whose life is going to become tangled up in theirs. **ISBN-13: 978-0545106078 Hardcover (544 pages)**

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.** It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. "Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract." A tesseract (in case the reader doesn't know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss L'Engle's unusual book. *A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem. **ISBN-13: 978-0312367541 (256 pages)**

List A Selections

Grade 6

***Smile* by Raina Telgemeier.** Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly. **ISBN-13: 978-0545132060**

***The River* by Gary Paulsen.** "We want you to do it again." These words, spoken to Brian Robeson, will change his life. Two years earlier, Brian was stranded alone in the wilderness for 54 days with nothing but a small hatchet. Yet he survived. Now the government wants him to go back into the wilderness so that astronauts and the military can learn the survival techniques that kept Brian alive. Soon the project backfires, though, leaving Brian with a wounded partner and a long river to navigate. His only hope is to build a raft and try to transport the injured man a hundred miles downstream to a trading post—if the map he has is accurate. **ISBN-13: 978-0307929617**

Grade 7

***The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander** "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . .The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. **ISBN-13: 978-1783443673**

***Rain, Reign* by Ann M. Martin.** Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different – not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. Hearts will break and spirits will soar for this powerful story, brilliantly told from Rose's point of view. **ISBN-13: 978-1250073976**

Grade 8

***Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mulally Hunt.** “Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.” Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there’s a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don’t always think alike. **ISBN-13: 978-0142426425**

***The Raft* by S. A. Bodeen.** Robie is an experienced traveler. She's taken the flight from Honolulu to the Midway Atoll, a group of Pacific islands where her parents live, many times. When she has to get to Midway in a hurry after a visit with her aunt in Hawaii, she gets on the next cargo flight at the last minute. She knows the pilot, but on this flight, there's a new co-pilot named Max. All systems

are go until a storm hits during the flight. The only passenger, Robie doesn't panic until the engine suddenly cuts out and Max shouts at her to put on a life jacket. They are over miles of Pacific Ocean. She sees Max struggle with a raft. And then . . . she's in the water. Fighting for her life. Max pulls her onto the raft, and that's when the real terror begins. They have no water. Their only food is a bag of Skittles. There are sharks. There is an island. But there's no sign of help on the way. **ISBN-13: 978-1250027399**

List B Selections

Grade 6

***A Single Shard* – Linda Sue Park.** In this Newbery Medal-winning book set in 12th century Korea, 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: the backbreaking labor of digging and hauling clay, Min's irascible temper, and his own ignorance. But Tree-ear is determined to prove himself — even if it means taking a long, solitary journey on foot to present Min's work in the hope of a royal commission . . . even if it means arriving at the royal court with nothing to show but a single celadon shard. **ISBN-13: 978-0547534268**

Grade 7

***Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson.** Blistering winds. Bitter cold. And the hope of a new future. In this compelling sequel to *Chains*, a National Book Award Finalist and winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson shifts perspective from Isabel to Curzon and brings to the page the tale of what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in a world of obstacles—and in the midst of the American Revolution. The Patriot Army was shaped and strengthened by the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter. This is where Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of discovery, for he is an escaped slave passing for free. And then there is Isabel, who is also at Valley Forge—against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom. **ISBN-13: 978-1416961451**

Grade 8

***Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai.** Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration.. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls,

and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America. This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four starred reviews, including one from *Kirkus* which proclaimed it "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny." An author's note explains how and why Thanhha Lai translated her personal experiences into Hà's story. This paperback edition also includes an interview with the author, an activity you can do with your family, tips on writing poetry, and discussion questions. **ISBN-13: 978-0061962790**