

7th Grade Synopsis Format for Summer Reading books

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson is a challenging read for both boys and adventurous girls. Jim Hawkins is thrown into this adventure romance from his first encounter with an old buccaneer and his treasure map. The imagination continues to be enchanted from the first, “Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum,” to the final daring skirmish with the treacherous pirate Long John Silver. Climb on board for an unrivaled adventure!

The Shadow Riders by Louis L’Amour is a high interest western tale for boys of the importance of family. Dal and Mac Traven return from the Civil War only to find their sister and girl friend kidnapped by Colonel Henry T. Ashford who is still fighting the war. They must free the captives even if it means fighting another war themselves.

The Giver by Lois Lowry is a fantasy, high interest novel for both girls and boys. The protagonist, Gabriel, finds himself at age 12 as the Keeper of all the memories of his community. His function as Keeper allows the community to enjoy “Sameness” so no one person is favored over another. However, his faith in his community’s wisdom is challenged when twins are born and a decision must be made to preserve the stronger child over the weaker one.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest J. Gaines is a challenging historical fiction novel of interest probably to girls. The story begins at the end of the Civil War with Miss Jane trying to find her way to Ohio. She never leaves Louisiana, but the story traces the history of Southern blacks from the end of the Civil War through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s. Miss Jane is the Rosa Parks of fiction and an amusing teller of “her” story. Her antics are legendary.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin is a mystery of high interest to both boys and girls. Sixteen people of all stereotypes live in an apartment building and compete to solve the riddle for the Westing fortune. How far will each character go? Can you figure out the surprise ending before reading it? The need for wealth, the need for forgiveness, and the need for hope all permeate Raskin’s mysterious adventure.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan is a high interest, easy read for girls. The story begins in Mexico in 1924 on an estate/vinyard. Due to a series of unfortunate events, Esperanza and her mother must move to the United States and become migrant workers. The life is hard and Esperanza must grow up very quickly to take responsibility for the care of her sick mother. She realizes the value of family and true friends.