**7th Grade Summer Reading 2017**

**Charles Henderson Middle School**

**Students registered for Pre-AP English 7** are required to read one book of their choice before returning to school in August. This book may not be a book that they have previously tested on for Accelerated Reader and must be above a 5.0 book level. In addition, these students must also read **ONE** of the titles listed below.

**Students registered for Advanced/Honors English 7** are required to read at least **ONE** of the following books before returning to school in August. Be prepared to take a quiz and write about the book’s setting, characters, plot, point of view, and theme. If you like the first in the series or the author’s style of writing, then try other books by the same author. Check out the author’s website for interactive activities and more information.

**\*NOTE: If there is a book on this list which you have previously read and taken the AR test, you MAY NOT select it as your summer reading book.**

**Runner by Carl Deuker (Realistic Fiction) (Reading Level: 4.3)**

Summary quoted from [www.kirkusreviews.com](http://www.kirkusreviews.com)

Seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor lives on a sailboat at the marina. The boat’s not seaworthy and represents the life Chance and his father share—rocking back and forth and going nowhere. Chance sits in the back of every classroom, making himself invisible. Mr. Taylor drinks, has trouble holding down a job and struggles to pay the bills. So, Chance agrees to be a runner, picking up mysterious parcels on his daily running route and passing them on to the fat man from the marina, knowing that it’s probably wrong and likely dangerous, but it pays very well. Sinister goings-on, a murder, last-minute heroism and a new life rich with possibility make this a satisfying read. Deuker’s brisk narrative will carry along even the most reluctant of readers in this post-9/11 tale of terrorism on the Puget Sound.

**Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (Realistic Fiction) (Reading Level: 4.2)**

Summary quoted from [www.bookbrowse.com](http://www.bookbrowse.com)

Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don’t stand out—under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes—for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of home schooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl’s arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her. In a celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity—and the thrill and inspiration of first love.

**Slam by Walter Dean Myers (Realistic Fiction) (Reading Level: 4.5)**

Summary quoted from [www.teenink.com](http://www.teenink.com)

Walter Dean Myers brings you into the world of Harlem and struggles of life with his Coretta Scott King award-winning book. Gregory “Slam” Harris is a talented basketball player with big dreams, but he has lots of obstacles to overcome. He also has many choices to make in his life. With the help of his girlfriend, Matisha, his teachers, and his family, Slam just might make it.

**Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff (Verse Novel) (Reading Level: 5.0)**

Summary quoted from [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn dreams of going to college, but her family is poor and the only way she can afford to go is to work part-time while she attends high school. LaVaughn finds a job babysitting for Jolly, a 17-year-old single mother with two children. Jolly, a high school dropout who can barely read, is worried when she is fired from her job (her boss harasses her) and can't make ends meet. This poignant and realistic story of two adolescent girls struggling to define their lives is a rich character portrait for young adult readers

**Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt (Historical Fiction) (Reading Level: 5.9)**

Summary quoted from [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org)

Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling--he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with? A bully demanding cream puffs; angry rats; and a baseball hero signing autographs the very same night Holling has to appear in a play in yellow tights! As fate sneaks up on him again and again, Holling finds Motivation--the Big M--in the most unexpected places and musters up the courage to embrace his destiny, in spite of himself.