7th Grade Summer Reading 2016

Charles Henderson Middle School

**Students registered for Pre-AP English 7** are required to read ***Blood on the River*** by Elisa Carbone before returning to school in August. 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.**

**Blood on the River by Elisa Carbone (Historical Fiction) (Reading Level: 5.3) (Required for Pre-AP – Optional for Adv/Honors)**

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

Four hundred years ago, a boy arrived in America . . .Samuel Collier came from nothing. A street urchin, an orphan, and even a thief, he seems headed for a life in the alleys of London. So when he becomes the page of Captain John Smith and boards the ship the Susan Constant, bound for the New World, he can't believe his good fortune. He's heard that gold washes ashore with every tide. But beginning with the stormy journey and his first contact with the native people, he realizes that the New World is nothing like he had ever imagined. Based on the true story of the settlement of Jamestown, *Blood on the River* brings to life a significant time in American history.

**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.

**Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (Historical Fiction) (Reading Level: 5.0)**

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

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him: he has his own suitcase filled with his own important, secret things; he's the author of Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself.; and is momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!! Bud's got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him--not hunger, not fear, not vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself. *Bud, Not Buddy* is full of laugh-out-loud humor and wonderful characters.

**Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry (Dystopian) (Reading Level: 5.0)**

Summary quoted from the book cover

Book #2 in *The Giver* quartet

Left orphaned and physically flawed in a civilization that shuns and discards the weak, Kira faces a frighteningly uncertain future. Her neighbors are hostile and no one but a small boy offers to help. When she is summoned to judgment by the Council of guardians, Kira prepares to fight for her life. But the Council, to her surprise, has plans for her. Blessed with an almost magical talent that keeps her alive, the young girl faces new responsibilities and a set of mysteries deep within the only world she has ever known. On her quest for truth, Kira discovers things that will change her life and world forever.

**The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman (Fantasy) (Reading Level: 5.1)**

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

Published in 2008, The Graveyard Book is a quirky tale about Nobody (Bod) Owens, a human boy who was raised in a graveyard. Bod came to the graveyard as a toddler, escaping his parents’ and sibling’s murderer, by the man Jack. Adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Owens, Bod is raised among an eccentric cast of characters, most of whom are dead and inhabit the graveyard. Tutored by the spirits and given Freedom of the Graveyard, he learns special talents like “fading” in order to live in the graveyard comfortably and undetected, safe from the man Jack, who is still searching for him.